

Bring your Medicines Manufacturing to the UK

The UK is a prime location to research, develop and and manufacture pharmaceutical products. The UK is world class in process development and the manufacture of cost effective complex molecules within a collaborative working environment.

This is supported by a network of centres that support the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

Unique research and innovation centres

Expert national innovation centres specialising in small molecules, biologics, vaccines, advanced therapies, formulation and other areas help the industry to accelerate solutions for complex manufacturing:

- Providing access to innovative manufacturing equipment, digital platforms and a community of highly skilled engineers, scientists and technicians.
- Accessing expert facilities and talent on demand reduces timelines and costs to develop, test and commercialise the manufacture of new products, with intellectual property robustly protected.



Pfizer invests in Paediatric Manufacturing Centre

In June 2019 Pfizer announced an investment in a new Paediatric Manufacturing Centre on its Discovery Park site in Sandwich, Kent. The investment will enable scientists to explore innovative ways to make medicines more palatable with flexible dosing for children.



The Medicines Manufacturing Industry Partnership (MMIP)

was established jointly by Government and industry to ensure that the UK is recognised as a world-class advanced centre for medicines manufacturing. This successful collaboration has unlocked £146 million in government investment in response to industry needs, including the creation or expansion of research and innovation centres specialising in working with industry on the manufacture of small molecules, vaccines, cell and gene therapies, and biologics.



Digital innovation to boost productivity

Government is supporting the industry to remain at the forefront of digital innovation in medicines manufacturing, with increased investment in digital infrastructure and 5G testbeds, funding to support companies to harness digitisation, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual reality, and 3D printing.



A network of **Advanced Therapies Treatment Centres** working with industry and NHS organisations are embracing innovative digital solutions which facilitate rapid scale-up of the national delivery of advanced therapies.



A world-first **Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre** based in Scotland will work with industry to accelerate the development of a new generation of manufacturing processes and help companies integrate these within their existing models. This national centre will explore novel techniques for producing patient-centric medicines, real-time release of drugs, and integrated process analytics to drive the transformation of medicines manufacturing.



Ipsen expands manufacturing in Wales

French biopharmaceutical company Ipsen operates an integrated therapeutics value chain in the UK, forming the heart of Ipsen's global neurotoxin activities, encompassing R&D, manufacturing, distribution and commercial functions.

Ipsen has commercial activities in Slough, R&D for neurotoxins in Oxford, and Wrexham in Wales is where Ipsen operates manufacturing and R&D. The Wrexham facility employs 450 people, and was recently expanded by Ipsen to increase research and manufacturing capacity for medicines for neurological disorders. The site produces and exports Dysport - a medicine used in therapy for cerebral palsy, spasticity and cervical dystonia.

“We are fortunate to work with a group of highly skilled individuals across all parts of the organisation at Wrexham and know that this expansion reinforces the site’s position as a state-of-the-art medicine manufacturing facility located here in the UK.”

Aidan Murphy
Executive Vice President, Technical Operations, Ipsen.

Manufacturers benefit from a culture of collaboration

System-wide collaboration across industry, academia and government has produced:

- An excellent track record of large-scale projects between academia, contract manufacturing organisations, technology suppliers and developers which identify solutions to complex manufacturing.
- Over 1,300 companies involved in medicines manufacturing work across the UK and benefit from broad cross-sectoral networking opportunities, both at national level and as a result of being embedded within regional manufacturing clusters.
- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an engaged and globally respected medicines regulator. MHRA works with companies to facilitate the introduction of novel technology and manufacturing processes and supports a culture of compliance and high standards across the industry, enabling UK and global market access.

The **Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre** based at Harwell is fast tracked amidst COVID-19 to open in 2021. In addition to vaccines, other biological medicines including vectors for gene therapy and cancer therapy products will also be developed by harnessing cutting-edge technology. This facility is supported by the University of Oxford, Imperial College London and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, as well as high-profile industrial stakeholders such as Janssen, MSD (Merck & Company), and GE Healthcare.

Centre for Process Innovation

The Centre for Process Innovation works with universities, businesses, government and investors to translate bright ideas and research into the marketplace. With a deep understanding of innovation processes and funding, outstanding technical expertise and industry-relevant assets, they enable products and processes to be quickly and cost-effectively brought to market.



Talent and skills for today and the future

Medicines Manufacturers in the UK can access a diverse pool of talent:

- An established industrial workforce with more 1,300 companies operating in medicines manufacturing and more than 120,000 people employed in the biopharmaceutical sector across product developers and an expert services and supply chain.
- Community via the Medicines Manufacturing Industry Partnership.
- Expert talent working within our rich network of innovation centres.
- Apprenticeship schemes and industry/university exchange programmes ensure businesses have precisely the skills they need, such as by cultivating new talent via Centres for Doctoral Training in pharmaceutical manufacturing.



Eli Lilly partnership with Imperial and UCL

A 5-year partnership announced in October 2019 between Eli Lilly, Imperial and UCL will combine their industry and academic expertise to overcome challenges in the manufacture and delivery of peptide drugs.

The collaborators will leverage highly targeted experiments, digital decision-making approaches, and artificial intelligence to create modern state-of-the-art medicines manufacturing processes, enabling faster and more cost-effective manufacturing of synthetic drugs. Among the technologies the team will develop is a novel approach to liquid-phase synthesis of peptides, which has the potential to be more effective than current technologies such as solid-state synthesis or bioprocessing.

Fiscal incentives enable manufacturing



R&D relief is available at 25p-33p/£ for SMEs and is set to increase to 13p/£ for large businesses. This can also include aspect of clinical manufacture.



Corporation tax on profits attributable to use of qualifying patented technologies will be reduced to 10%.



Tax relief on plant and machinery up to £1 million per annum (until 31 Dec 2020).



Structures & Building Allowance is tax relief which may be claimed on expenditure for the construction of non-residential structures built after October 2018. It also applies to renovations. Relief is provided at a flat rate of 2%, increasing to 3% by the end of 2024-25.



Department for
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How we can help

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