

Novugen Oncology (formerly known as Oncogen Pharma) launches ASEAN's First Oncology API R&D Centre

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, January 14th, 2016 - Novugen Oncology Sdn Bhd (formerly known as Oncogen Pharma) has officially launched ASEAN's first oncology active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) research and development (R&D) centre in Glenmarie, Selangor.

Its chief executive officer (CEO) Junaid Waheed said the inauguration is a path-breaking beginning in the company's vision and commitment to supply high-quality oncology products that complied with all the stringent international regulatory requirements at affordable prices.



Chief Executive Officer MIDA, Datuk Azman Mahmud (2nd from left) and Chief Executive Officer Novugen Oncology Sdn Bhd Bhd, Junaid Waheed (left) visit the R&D facilities during official ceremony of Novugen Oncology Sdn Bhd Research and Development (R&D) Centre at Hicom Glenmarie Industrial Park, Shah Alam. Pix by Ghazali Kori.

“These products will be researched, developed, patented in Malaysia and will then be supplied to all over the world including the United States and European markets,” he said in a statement today. He said the establishment of the centre would be followed by the construction of two API and formulation plants in the next three years.

“After the completion of these projects, Novugen Oncology will have a fully integrated oncology manufacturing establishment in Malaysia,” he said, adding, the company had already acquired two pieces of industrial land in Bandar Enstek, Negeri Sembilan, for both the plants.

Junaid said Novugen Oncology envisioned to develop and manufacture a niche, low-volume, high-potency products in the US Food and Drug Administration-approved plants.

“These are technology-intensive, hard-to-source products and the company aims to be the first to market these products in the generic segment.

“The successful implementation of this integrated project will provide Malaysia a leading edge in the development of the oncology pharmaceutical industry which will act as a catalyst in making Malaysia a hub for oncology products,” he said.

He said Malaysia was selected among many other countries due to its strategic importance in the region, ease of operations, quality of infrastructure and a talented pool of upcoming young scientists.

Junaid also commended the role played by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) in convincing Novugen Oncology’s parent company, Scitech Group from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to locate the project in Malaysia.

He said MIDA had very quickly grasped the vision of Novugen Oncology and realised the pioneering nature of its projects.

“MIDA has facilitated Novugen Oncology at every step, whether regulatory, immigration or environmental compliances,” he added.

Junaid said staff recruitment had started in order to take advantage of Malaysia’s talented pool of young and bright scientists.

The company also intended to provide training to young Malaysian scientists in accordance with the US and European standards and sponsor them for higher studies to make them even better in their field, he added.

“This will help Novugen Oncology and the world to further help in reducing the prices of oncology products to an affordable level,” he said.

Meanwhile, MIDA CEO Datuk Azman Mahmud said Novugen Oncology’s investment was proof of Malaysia’s commitment to innovation and was also in line with the country’s focus on attracting higher value-added activities.

He said by investing millions and developing its workforce towards fulfilling its vision in providing affordable oncology products, Novugen Oncology is a great example of how innovative companies could excel in Malaysia.

“The centre, which will house a total of 35 Malaysian R&D staff, draws on the pool of talented young Malaysians to grow their operations.

“We are excited that the company has actively engaged with local universities such as University of Malaya for talent recruitment, participation in conference and R&D collaboration, and the development of its internship programme.

“From these engagements, I look forward to more commercial outcomes from the excellent research happening in our universities,” he said.

Azman said Novugen Oncology would be able to enjoy market access to free trade agreement (FTA) network through the agreements that Malaysia had signed with many countries.

Additionally, he said the company stood to benefit from preferential access for its products from Malaysia’s potential FTA with the European Union as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership member countries.

“More so, with the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and various ASEAN FTAs with China, Japan, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand, the company has the option to further expand its export market to more than three billion people,” he added. – Bernama

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<https://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/01/122240/oncogen-pharma-launches-aseans-first-oncology-api-rd-centre>