Novartis Expands Pharma R&D in China

Swiss drug giant Novartis plans to invest US$1 billion over the next five years to increase pharmaceutical R&D activities in China, which would include a significant expansion of the Novartis Institute of BioMedical Research (CNIBR) in Shanghai, China.

The Institute, CNIBR, specializes in basic research and development of new drugs including small molecule and biological medicines to treat diseases that are highly prevalent in China. To allow for this large expansion, the Institute will relocate to a new state-of-the-art campus in Shanghai. Its activities are expected to span work in analytics and biomarkers; in vivo pharmacology; protein production, characterization and scale-up screening; and proteomics, genomics and imaging.

CNIBR is expected to be the third largest R&D center for Novartis, after the R&D center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S. and the facility at the Novartis headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, and to become the largest comprehensive R&D center in China.

Novartis has also invested US$250 million in a new global technical center in Changshu, focusing on technical research, development and manufacturing activities of APIs. According to the company, the synergies gained from the co-location of both technical R&D and manufacturing enable significant pharmaceutical process improvements and operational efficiencies.

NeoStem Acquires China Biopharmaceuticals

NeoStem, a U.S.-based developer of stem cell therapies, has completed the acquisition of China Biopharmaceuticals (CHBP). The acquisition will see the beginning of NeoStem’s collaboration with Suzhou Erye Pharmaceutical, which NeoStem will have a 51% ownership interest in what used to be considered the primary operating subsidiary of CHBP.

The acquisition opens international access for NeoStem and enables the combined entity to source drugs and treatments from each others’ pipeline. Also, the company’s presence in China provides access to one of the fastest growing medical treatment markets in the world. It is expected to become the third largest drug market in the world (behind the U.S. and Japan), and forecast to triple in size by 2013.

About NeoStem

NeoStem develops a network of adult stem cell collection centers that are focused on enabling people to donate and store their own (autologous) stem cells when they are young and healthy for their personal use in times of future medical need. The company enters into research and development through the acquisition of a worldwide exclusive license to technology to identify and isolate VSELs (very small embryonic-like stem cells), and is pursuing other technologies to advance its position in the field of stem cell tissue regeneration.

About China Biopharmaceuticals

China Biopharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc. (CBH) is a vertically integrated bio-pharmaceutical company focused on developing, manufacturing and distributing drugs in China. The company’s business consists of three parts: research & development, raw materials and manufacturing.