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ASIA EDITION

Merck expands life science production capacities in US

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Announces a combined Ã¢â??Â¬ 40 million investment at its production facilities in Danvers, Massachusetts, and Jaffrey, New Hampshire, USA



Merck, a leading science and technology company, has announced the broadening of its manufacturing footprint with a combined € 40 million investment at its production facilities in Danvers, Massachusetts, and Jaffrey, New Hampshire, USA. These sites supply critical products to customers developing lifesaving therapies, including Covid-19 vaccines, as well as provide products and services for biopharmaceutical manufacturing. These expansions will significantly increase capacity and output at these facilities by the end of 2021 and 2022, respectively, and create nearly 700 new manufacturing positions.

“The global coronavirus pandemic has significantly increased demand for our single-use and virus filtration technologies, which we are supplying to more than 50 different companies working on Covid-19 vaccine candidates,” said Chris Ross, interim head, Life Science, at Merck. “These investments will strengthen our global manufacturing footprint, allowing us to meet this unprecedented demand and help get lifesaving vaccines and therapies to more patients, faster.”

This expansion will add 6,000 square meters of space to the Danvers single-use assembly operation, adding to the existing 11,000-square-meter facility. The expansion will add the capacity needed to support the manufacturing of products across

several portfolios, including Merck's Mobius® single-use consumables. The total investment in Danvers is about € 21 million and will add approximately 400 jobs throughout 2021.

The Jaffrey expansion plans include adding 2,300 square meters to the existing 24,000-square-meter facility. The additional capacity includes new production lines and equipment to support the manufacturing of filtration devices and membrane products, specifically Durapore® filters, Express® filters and the Viresolve® product lines. These products are used to ensure the sterility of many lifesaving therapies and to remove viral contamination for a variety of therapies. The total investment in Jaffrey is about € 18.5 million. This expansion is expected to bring nearly 275 roles by 2022, once the expansion is completed.

These expansions join the Life Science investments announced in 2020 to further enhance capabilities and capacity in Buchs, Switzerland; Carlsbad, California, USA; Madison, Wisconsin, USA; and Darmstadt, Germany, broadening the company's global manufacturing footprint.