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CSIRO opens 'missing link' lab to developing Australian vaccine pipeline

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To supercharge Australia's ability to produce vaccines and therapeutics locally



Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), an Australian Government agency responsible for scientific research, has opened a new $23.1 million national lab in Melbourne that will bolster the nation's ability to produce vaccines and drug treatments onshore.

Researchers at CSIRO's National Vaccine and Therapeutics Lab will turn vaccine and drug candidates into products that can be manufactured in large quantities for clinical trials. The ability to do this in Australia, rather than needing to go overseas, has been the 'missing link' in Australia's biomedical science sector being able to produce vaccines and drugs here.

The new lab follows a successful pilot facility in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when CSIRO scaled up vaccine candidates that had been developed onshore as part of a national strategy to combat this emerging threat.

The facility was completed with funding from the Federal and Victorian Governments and was officially opened on 11th August by Federal Minister for Industry and Science Hon Ed Husic.

CSIRO's Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall said the new National Lab would lift Australia's ability to protect its people and grow new industries.