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ASIA EDITION

Merck signs MoU with Cyto-Facto to advance Cell & Gene Therapy manufacturing in APAC region

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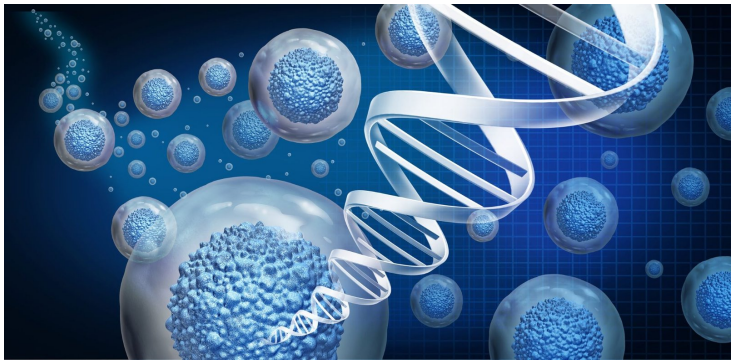
Brings together expertise in Japan and India to accelerate new cell & gene therapy manufacturing in APAC



Merck, a leading science and technology company, has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cyto-Facto Inc., a specialist CDMO (Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization) focused on cell and gene therapies (CGTs).

The collaboration aims to accelerate the development and manufacturing of CGT in Japan, building on Merck's innovative technologies and global expertise with Cyto-Facto's advanced capabilities to bring safe therapies to patients.

As part of the collaboration, Merck India will support structured knowledge exchange and customer engagement initiatives to strengthen platform readiness. Merck India will also introduce Cyto-Facto to cell and gene therapy companies in India seeking specialized lentiviral CDMO services.

"By combining process development expertise across Japan and India, Merck is helping strengthen lentiviral manufacturing capabilities in the Asia Pacific region," said Tony Budianto Bee, Head of Process Solutions APAC and Interim Head of Process Solutions India. "In India, this MoU will also help connect emerging CGT companies move promising therapies forward and support faster access to high-quality gene therapies for patients."

Under the MoU, Merck and Cyto-Facto plan to work together to establish a robust production platform utilising Merck's VirusExpress™293T Lentiviral Production Cells to support the process development and manufacturing in Good Manufacturing Process (GMP)-compliant environments. The collaboration also includes support for manufacturing scale-up, as well as technical training and process optimisation through Merck's the M Lab™ Collaboration Centers across APAC.