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ASIA EDITION

Agilent invests $725 M to expand production of nucleic acid-based therapeutics

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Investment will double capacity to produce active pharmaceutical ingredients used in therapeutics for a broad range of diseases



Agilent Technologies Inc. has announced that it is investing approximately $725 million to double manufacturing capacity of therapeutic nucleic acids in response to rapid growth of the $1 billion market and strong demand for the company's high-quality active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

Therapeutic nucleic acids, also called therapeutic oligonucleotides or oligos, are short DNA and RNA molecules that serve as the API for drugs targeting a growing number of diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and rare and infectious diseases.

The market for therapeutic oligos is currently estimated at $1 billion and is projected to grow in the double digits annually over the next five years, reaching $2.4 billion in 2027. The addition of two new manufacturing lines (known as Trains C and D) will enable Agilent to meet growing demand for siRNA, antisense and CRISPR guide RNA molecules. Agilent expects customer shipments from the expansion to begin in 2026.

The new Train C and D manufacturing lines will be based in Agilent's Frederick, Colorado facility in the US, where a Train B manufacturing line, announced in 2020, will go live later this year.

Agilent's therapeutic oligo facilities follow current good manufacturing practices (cGMP), and the expanded facility will employ advanced automation and engineering enhancements, including water reduction and solvent capturing and recycling.