

Astrazeneca establishes end to end cell therapy capabilities in Shanghai

China – Pharma

Main information

AstraZeneca plans to establish a commercial **cell therapy manufacturing** base and innovation center in Shanghai, aiming to become the first multinational pharmaceutical company with **end-to-end cell therapy capabilities** in China.

The manufacturing facility, to be built in the Lingang New Area of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, will focus on producing autologous **CAR-T cell therapies** for China and other Asian markets. Among the key programs expected to be supported at the site is AZD0120, a dual-target BCMA/CD19 CAR-T therapy currently being studied for multiple myeloma and autoimmune diseases.

In addition to the manufacturing site, the company will establish the AstraZeneca Gracell Cell Therapy Innovation Center in **Zhangjiang High-Tech Park**. The center will support early-stage research, vector and plasmid development, analytical testing, clinical manufacturing and regulatory registration.



The expansion is part of AstraZeneca's broader plan to invest \$15 billion in China through **2030** to strengthen research, development and manufacturing capabilities in advanced treatment modalities.

The company also announced the launch of a “**Shanghai-UK Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem Collaboration Program,**” partnering with institutions including the University of Glasgow, King's College London and HSBC to support joint research, startup growth and international commercialization. China is AstraZeneca's second-largest market and a key hub for its global research and manufacturing operations.

The new facilities also aim to strengthen collaboration with China's rapidly growing **biotech sector**. By fostering partnerships with local startups and research institutions, AstraZeneca plans to accelerate innovation in cell therapies and other advanced modalities, while simultaneously creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, workforce development, and the expansion of specialized manufacturing capabilities in the region.

For international drug companies and investors, this milestone signals that China is not only ready for next-generation therapies but also provides the **infrastructure, specialized talent, regulatory support, and market access** necessary to accelerate product development, scale efficiently, and bring transformative treatments to patients across Asia and beyond.

Related Provisions

- **Foreign Investment Law of the People's Republic of China**
- **Announcement of NMPA on Further Optimizing the Review and Approval of Clinically Urgently Needed Overseas Marketed Drugs**
- **Announcement of the National Medical Products Administration on Further Enhancing the Issuance of Drug Manufacturing Licenses**
- **Notice of the Shanghai Municipal Medical Products Administration on Issuing the "Guiding Opinions on Modern Drug Logistics in Shanghai"**



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