
PRESS RELEASE

Companies wishing to improve the quality of their drug pipeline should look to the UK – the world number two in pharmaceutical research.

CAMBRIDGE, UK, 1 May, 2007 - Cambridge Healthcare & Biotech Ltd (CH&B) will announce the results of their latest research into the current state of the biotechnology industry in the UK at BIO 2007 in Boston on 6 May.

According to the research, commissioned by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) the US still reigns supreme as the most productive place to do pharmaceutical research. However what may surprise is that the UK is number two in the world:

- UK companies produce twice as many new pharmaceutical products than Japan, the country ranked number three on the global scale.
- Producing 35% of all pharmaceutical products discovered in Europe also puts the UK almost three fold ahead of France, the second most important country in Europe for drug discovery.
- In the first three months of 2007, nine UK biotech companies have been taken over, making this a record year already. However, despite this recent activity, many high quality UK assets remain.

Martyn Postle, Director CH&B commented: “It is, of course, a great compliment to the quality of UK research that so many pharmaceutical companies are camped out in hotels in our vicinity trying to prise these gems from the clutches of VC investors. However, those pharmaceutical and larger biotech companies that wish to improve the quality of their R&D pipeline through acquisition should not wait – the pretty ones always get snapped up first.”

The quality of UK universities is cited as one of the reasons behind the UK’s strength in this area. The top four research universities in Europe are in the UK with Imperial College and University College joining Oxford and Cambridge. Globally Cambridge ranks number two just behind Harvard with Oxford coming in at number 10.

Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister of State for Science and Innovation, commented: “These findings confirm the UK’s position as one of the leading countries for life science research worldwide. We are particularly proud to have all of the top four European research universities within the UK.”

The research also highlights the UK’s particular strength in certain therapy areas; in particular CNS (psychiatry and neurology), oncology (cancer), and drugs for treating asthma and other respiratory diseases. Across these three therapy areas alone the UK currently has 325 products in active development within 61 companies.

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One consequence of the UK's leading position in pharmaceutical research is that UK biotech companies often become a target for major pharmaceutical companies. The number of UK biotech companies that have been acquired by pharmaceutical companies has accelerated dramatically recently and many of those acquisitions are being made by pharmaceutical companies from overseas.

Further results and analysis of the opportunities to be gained by investing in the UK biotech industry will be presented by Mr Postle at BIO 2007 in Boston on Sunday 6th May. 'The UK Drug Pipeline: Leading the World's Drug Innovation' seminar will take place in room 253A at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Centre between 1600-1730hrs. Interested parties will also be able to interrogate a database containing details of the current UK Drug Pipeline on stand 1773 at the 2007 BIO International Exhibition.

About Cambridge Healthcare & Biotech

Cambridge Healthcare & Biotech (CH&B) is a strategic advisor to biotech, pharmaceutical and healthcare companies in Europe and the USA. Founded in April 2003 by experienced professionals who have steered major products through all aspects of development and commercialization

CH&B bring a unique perspective through expertise and in-depth understanding of technology, product development, marketing, healthcare systems and corporate finance. The track record of our staff in deal-making is second to none, enabling clients to maximize value and minimize risk. We have the capability to operate throughout Europe and North America, both on our own account and with our key alliance partners.

About UK Trade & Investment

UK Trade & Investment is the UK Government's international business development organisation, supporting businesses seeking to establish in the UK and helping UK companies grow internationally. The services offered by UK Trade & Investment bring together a network of business sector specialists and support teams in British embassies and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts all around the world, as well as key experts in government departments across the UK. UK Trade & Investment works with a wide range of partner organisations in the UK, including Regional Development Agencies and the Devolved Administrations, Business Links, Chambers of Commerce and trade associations. For more information, visit the web site at www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk.

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