

Global Launch of Bio-XCell Kick Starts with Collaboration with General Electric International Inc.

Mittwoch, 05.05.2010 | 18:05 Uhr **Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) globally launched the Bio-XCell project in BioChicago 2010, the international biotechnology conference and exhibition in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America, yesterday.**

The scale model of Bio-XCell, a biotech park and ecosystem was unveiled by Malaysia's Minister of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Datuk Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili after he officially opened BiotechCorp's exhibition pavilion.

The development of Bio-XCell, a partnership between BiotechCorp and UEM Land Holdings Berhad in Iskandar Malaysia will cater to the needs of industrial and healthcare biotechnology initiatives, particularly in renewable and green technologies, Datuk Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili said.

Datuk Dr Maximus also witnessed the exchange of Memorandum of Collaboration between Bio-XCell and General Electric International Inc. (GE) for the provision of the strategic infrastructure for the ecosystem, particularly for the development of centralised utilities facilities within the park.

The collaboration with GE may also include the provision of life sciences and industrial manufacturing equipment and potential investment into biotech related innovation, said Dato Iskandar Mizal Mahmood, CEO of BiotechCorp who is also Chairman of Bio-XCell.

More than a biotech park, we aim to build a conducive biotech ecosystem to support manufacturing and R&D for the industrial and healthcare biotech sectors. It is a platform where we pool the soft infrastructure financial incentives, human capital development, business and operational set-up advisory and services and attractive leasing models, along with the hard or physical infrastructure that will enable companies to springboard their biotech business and commercialisation activity. The collaboration with GE will reinforce Bio-Xcell's commitment in Building it Green, Dato Iskandar added.

Bio-XCell is strategically located in the heart of Asia's biotech hub and globally connected through a network of five seaports and two international airports, all within a distance of less than 60kms. Companies that reside within Bio-XCell will have easy access to over 3 billion people of Asia's consumer market, within 7 hours travel time.

This is the strategic advantage of Bio-XCell. We are proud to welcome GlycosBio and MGM IINGREDIENTS as our first tenants, Dato Iskandar said after the Exchange of Memorandum of Agreements between Bio-XCell and Glycos Biotechnology Inc of USA and MGM INGREDIENTS AG of Switzerland. All companies are slanted to sign the Build to Lease Agreement before the end of the year.

GlycosBio specializes in biotech feedstock technology. The company aims to convert palm oil biomass into high value chemicals and by-products. MGM INGREDIENTS converts crop residues or by-products in the agriculture industry to create staple foods with improved nutritional value.

The participation of the companies across the industrial, pharmaceutical and agricultural sector sets a good start for the ecosystem. Their business activity supports our commitment to promote environmental, food and health sustainability, Dato Iskandar said.

Companies interested to learn more about opportunities at Bio-XCell can get more information from the website www.bio-xcell.com and contact the Strategic Marketing and Leasing division.

BiotechCorp also launched Malaysia's first Biotechnology country report, in collaboration with Ernst & Young. The objective of the country report is provide an overview of the Malaysian biotech industry development since 2005 and set out priority actions moving forward into the commercialization phase of Malaysia's Biotechnology Policy.

More importantly, it allows for benchmarking and tracking of the industry's initiatives and development, it identifies gaps in the implementation framework and allows us to identify key actions which must be put in place in ensuring the success of initiatives towards commercialization, Dato Iskandar said.

BiotechCorp also made several other announcements on key developments of biotech companies and related investments. BioNexus Status Company, Stempeutics, will conduct clinical trials in patients with Ischemic Cerebral Stroke (CS) after obtaining approvals from the Ministry of Health Malaysia. According to WHO, CS is the leading cause of disability in the world. The clinical trial will study the safety and efficacy of its investigational new drug.

Getz Pharma (Malaysia) is looking to invest over USD 45 million in Malaysia for R&D, production and commercialisation of sterile injectables and other biopharmaceutical products. The company is acquiring 15 acres of land for its facility in Enstek Tech Park, Malaysia.

Malaysian BioNexus Company, Siogen Biotech exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding with Veeda Clinical Research to collaborate on a drug delivery technology which will have significant impact on oncology drugs.

BiotechCorp also announced that it will be hosting BioMalaysia 2010 Conference and Exhibition, from 2nd to 4th November 2010 in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. BioMalaysia 2009 drew over 9,800 local and international visitors.

We have chosen the theme Innovating Commercialization in Biotechnology and we look forward to an exciting discussion and your participation in BioMalaysia 2010, Dato Iskandar concluded.

Registration for BioMalaysia 2010 Exhibition and Conference is open and can be completed online at www.biomalaysia.com.my.

About BiotechCorp

BiotechCorp is the lead development agency for the biotech industry in Malaysia and acts as a central contact point providing support, facilitation and advisory services for biotech and life sciences companies in Malaysia.

Since its establishment in 2005, BiotechCorp has played a key role in building the biotech industry in Malaysia. To date, BiotechCorp has facilitated the development of 158 BioNexus-status companies in Malaysia with total approved investment of RM 1.54 billion (US\$450 million).

BioNexus-status companies are international and Malaysian biotech companies that qualify for fiscal incentives, grants and guarantees administered by BiotechCorp. For further details, visit www.biotechcorp.com.my.

About Bio-XCell

Bio-XCell is a biotechnology ecosystem for industrial and healthcare biotechnology, with a focus on manufacturing and R&D. Developed by Malaysian Bio-XCell Sdn Bhd, a joint venture company between BiotechCorp and UEM Land, the park is slanted to be the new regional biotech hub of Asia. Capitalising on value propositions of both its shareholders, Bio-XCell provides comprehensive infrastructure, services, incentives and benefits to drive the growth for the biotechnology sector.

Strategically located in Nusajaya, Iskandar Malaysia, the resource-rich state of Johor, Bio-XCell provides global connectivity through the network of five seaports and two international airports, all within 59kms. For information or leasing inquiries, log on to www.bio-xcell.com.