

News Release

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Allergopharma Opens new Biopharmaceutical Production in Reinbek

- **New production is important pillar of global expansion strategy**
- **Minister-President Torsten Albig recognizes €42 million euro investment of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in Schleswig-Holstein site**

Reinbek, Germany, March 2, 2017 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced that its allergy business Allergopharma opened its new biopharmaceutical production in Reinbek, near Hamburg. Torsten Albig, Minister-President of the Schleswig-Holstein region, recognized the €42 million investment as a local milestone for the pharmaceutical industry as a key industry for the future.

“Allergopharma has now been around for 48 years. Around 600 employees, 500 of which in Schleswig-Holstein, are working hard to improve the remedies available to people with allergies. The extension, which we are celebrating today, is a powerful declaration of commitment to this location. I am delighted that Allergopharma remains faithful to the state. You are creating more workplaces in a thriving region. The Stormarn district now has an unemployment rate of only 3.7 percent. That means virtually full employment, and Allergopharma has played a big part in achieving this,” commented Minister-President Torsten Albig.

“By this €42 million investment our company is supporting the Reinbek site in order to expand the allergies business on a global scale. The new production building is part of this global expansion, and will support our growing business in the allergy market place,” said Simon Sturge, Chief Operating Officer at the Healthcare business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, at the inauguration in

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Reinbek. "From a technology point of view, the new biopharmaceutical production is a quantum leap. It means an increase in supply safety for patients, a further improvement of product quality and future innovations towards improving therapy", Marco Linari, CEO of Allergopharma, added. The capacity of the new factory is a cornerstone in the global expansion of Allergopharma.

Allergopharma, the allergy business of the Healthcare business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading player in the allergen immunotherapy (AIT) of type I allergies, such as hay fever or allergic asthma. Allergopharma's aspiration is to be a trusted partner in supporting patients with innovative compounds in the diagnosis and treatment of allergies. This is underlined by the new cutting edge biopharmaceutical factory, which covers 6,000 square meters. The entirely glass cleanroom, in which the company will manufacture its products for causal treatment, can be found on the 2,000 square meter ground floor of the building.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, laid the foundations for the building in December 2013. Alongside the cleanrooms for biopharmaceutical production, the new building has ultra-modern technological operations, a glass visitors' foyer with a view of the cleanrooms and the potential for extension to accommodate further filling lines.

Allergopharma

Allergopharma GmbH & Co. KG, the allergy business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is one of the leading companies for allergen immunotherapy (AIT). It was founded in 1969 in Reinbek near Hamburg. The product range encompasses a diverse spectrum of approved allergen preparations, which correspond to the highest quality standards. AIT (Hyposensitization, desensitization, allergy vaccination) is the only causal therapy option to treat allergies against unavoidable allergens. Almost 500 employees work at the site in Reinbek.

Allergopharma produces preparations for the diagnosis and treatment of type I allergies such as allergic rhinitis (e.g. hay fever) or allergic asthma. The allergy company offers high dosage, hypoallergenic, standardized preparations for allergen specific immunotherapy for pollen and dust mite allergies. These so-called allergoids are a particular focus of the product range of Allergopharma, and form a key element of the holistic treatment approach for patients that suffer from allergies. Allergopharma also offers a wide range of diagnostic allergy tests.

The products of Allergopharma are available in more than 20 countries worldwide. All products are manufactured in Reinbek near Hamburg, under ultra-clean, sterile conditions.

Allergopharma is also well equipped for the future, because the company is already in a leading position in the development of allergens produced using biotechnology, so-called recombinant allergens.

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2015, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 12.85 billion in 66 countries.

Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the „Merck“ name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.