

Novasep invests EUR 30 million to build world's largest chromatography plant for the pharmaceutical industry

New plant on its Mourenx, France site to produce a large volume commercial API

Pompey, France, October 10, 2012 - Novasep, a leading provider of purification-based manufacturing solutions for life science molecules, announces today an investment of EUR 30 million to build in Europe what will be the world's largest chromatography plant used for the production of a large volume commercial API (active pharmaceutical ingredient).

The plant will be built on Novasep's existing Mourenx site in France and will be operational and validated within 18 months. Both the development of an advanced purification process and the plant expansion within the challenging timescale are results of the sharp increase in the projected demand for a large volume, highly purified API.

The EUR 30 million investment follows two other significant global investments in 2012. The first is the opening of a new 2,000m² facility in Shanghai, China and the second is a EUR three million investment to expand the Highly Potent API (HPAPI) manufacturing capabilities at the facility in Le Mans, France.

Novasep has pioneered continuous chromatography for pharmaceutical manufacturing for more than 20 years. Its SMB and Varicol® continuous chromatography technologies are currently used for commercial scale production of several chiral APIs. The new plant, designed by a Novasep in-house engineering team, will include Varicol® systems with 1,200 mm diameter columns operated at up to 70 bars, the largest ever built in the pharmaceutical industry. The plant will enable the production of a highly purified API from a complex mixture. The systems will also integrate sophisticated solvent recovery systems for the recycling of 99.9% of solvents, resulting in both a very cost-effective and environmentally friendly process.

"Demand for Novasep's advanced, purification-based manufacturing capabilities in the life science industries continues to increase as drugs in development and reaching the market become more complex and specific. This necessitates our third, and largest global plant expansion in 2012," said Patrick Glaser, President and CEO of Novasep. "This successful project, the world's largest chromatography plant in the pharmaceutical industry, demonstrates the validity of the Novasep strategy which is based on the combination of synthesis, biosynthesis and purification. We thank our institutional partners for their active support and our shareholders for their strong involvement to enable this transforming project."

Beyond Novasep's commitment, the EUR 30 million investment has been made possible through financial and/or logistic support by the following partners: the association of local authorities of Lacq, the General Council of Pyrénées Atlantiques, the Regional Council of Aquitaine, the Economic Development Bureau, DIRECCTE Aquitaine, the Prefecture of Pyrénées Atlantiques, Total Group, and OSEO, France's innovation partner. The plant will leverage the SOBEGI platform's utility supply.

About Novasep

Novasep is a global provider of cost-effective and sustainable solutions to produce active molecules at the required purity. Novasep's unique offering includes process development services, purification equipment and turnkey processes, contract manufacturing services and complex active molecules to serve pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, agrochemical, food and functional ingredients and white biotechnology industries.

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