



Premier of Queensland

Premier announces new collaboration for Queensland Biotechnology

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh today announced a major new collaboration between DSM Biologics (The Netherlands), The University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), and the Government.

The Premier announced DSM Biologics' involvement with the BioPharmaceuticals Australia facility during BIO 2010 in Chicago, along with \$7 million in seed funding from the Queensland Government.

"Today I can announce that DSM Biologics has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Queensland's AIBN, completing a vital link in the chain between biopharmaceutical research and manufacturing.

"Today's collaboration brings the weight of AIBN's existing research strength and matches it with DSM Biologics commitment to the BioPharmaceuticals Australia facility.

"It gives DSM Biologics a ready-made market of research projects that are ready to move to the commercialization stage.

"AIBN have more than 20 research projects underway that stand to benefit from this new collaboration.

Ms Bligh joined DSM Biologics President Karen King to inspect progress on the new facility.

"I met with Ms King while in New York on a Trade Mission earlier this year to discuss potential further expansion by the company into Queensland.

"I am delighted to welcome her to Queensland," Ms Bligh said.

Today's announcement will see the development of the next generation human therapeutics.

Known as biologics, these drugs are based on natural proteins made using DNA technology and offer treatment options for a wide range of diseases including cancer and autoimmune disorders.

DSM Biologics will operate the \$65 million scale-up facility, being constructed by the Queensland Government entity Biopharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd., which will produce clinical and commercial grade biologics for Australian and global markets.

"Currently around \$60 million goes off shore to small-scale drug and therapeutic manufacturers but that's all set to change," The Premier said.

"This announcement represents the final steps to ensuring that Queensland is able to seamlessly take research into new human therapeutics through to human clinical trials and subsequent production."

DSM Biologics President Karen King said that the announcement represents a significant strengthening and deepening of DSM Biologic's links and involvement with Brisbane based researchers.

"The expertise at AIBN is very complementary to DSM's skills. AIBN has world-class experience in mammalian cell line development," Ms. King said.

AIBN Director, Professor Peter Gray, said the collaboration is very much a product of the Queensland Government's Smart State strategies, and is a fitting recognition of the skill base and facilities that have been developed in the State.

"AIBN researchers have developed novel high speed methods for rapidly developing the cell lines and bioprocesses needed to produce the next generation of biologics," Prof Gray said.

"The collaboration with DSMB will ensure that Australian bioresearchers will be able to rapidly progress their therapeutic leads into high purity material ready for evaluation in the clinic," he said.

Considered to be at the forefront of biomedical research, biologics are created by biologic processes rather than being chemically synthesized. Biologics based drugs now account for 17 per cent of total global therapeutic sales.

Ends.

Contact: Premier's office 3224 4500



From left: Professor David Theile (QLD Health), Professor Ian Frazer (TRI), David Hughes (BPA), Premier Anna Bligh, Karen King (DSM), and Professor Peter Gray (AIBN).