

PRESS RELEASE

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North West set to lead the way in biomanufacturing

The launch of the new National Biomanufacturing Centre (NBC) in Merseyside is set to place the North West of England as a leading centre for biomanufacturing.

The NBC, a £30 million project has been developed by *Bionow*, the North West Development Agency's (NWDA) dedicated biotech division, with additional grant support from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the European Union Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Centre will provide the expertise and facilities to help new and existing biotechnology companies to develop and manufacture biopharmaceutical medicines. Its aim is to speed up the transfer from research to commercialization by filling the skills or resource gaps that may exist within organisations.

The North West is already well established as a strong biotechnology cluster, with existing expertise in biomanufacturing, including the Speke Garston Estate and major drug companies such as Eli Lilly, Medimmune, AstraZeneca and Chiron (Powderject). The introduction of the NBC will further strengthen this expertise by attracting new companies to the area, as well as generating increased wealth and

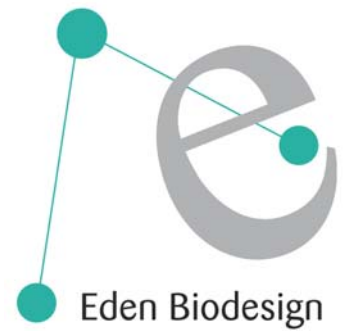
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employment opportunities for the area.

Dr Crawford Brown, CEO of Eden Biodesign states: *“As operator for the NBC, we are delighted to be involved in such a major initiative. Working with the NWDA, we are committed to building the region’s expertise in the biotech industry The NBC will form an important and integral part of this drive to make the North West the leading-edge centre for biomanufacturing in Europe.”*

ENDS

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