

# The National Biomanufacturing Centre (NBC)

## A Media Backgrounder

The NBC is a new initiative funded by the Government that is designed to promote the North West of England as a leading-edge centre for biomanufacturing in Europe.

The NBC will provide the expertise and facilities at all stages of the production of biopharmaceutical products, ultimately medicines. It is designed to assist new and existing biotechnology companies, helping them to develop new products, when they would not necessarily have the right expertise or facilities to do so otherwise.

*The national Facility would carry out the initial manufacture of biopharmaceuticals, which could then be used in early trials. It would plug an essential gap that currently exists to speed up transfer from research to commercial exploitation.*

Conceived initially by Professor Julian Crampton at the University of Liverpool, the NBC is funded by the NWDA and was developed by Bionow, the dedicated biotech division of the NWDA, with grant support also provided by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the European Union Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Construction of the NBC will commence in 2004, with the Centre officially opening in late 2005, ensuring sufficient time is allowed for the necessary highly technical and complex construction to be completed. This will create a biomanufacturing and development facility of 4,100m<sup>2</sup>

The operational services of the NBC will be aimed at the production of pre-clinical and clinical material, including cell banking, active ingredient manufacture (fermentation and purification), formulation and supply to clinical centres. Such technologies will help the NBC to become Europe's leading biopharmaceutical design centre, capable of producing a variety of novel medicines.

The government investment includes a £3 million access fund that will provide assistance to small companies, particularly in the Merseyside region, helping them to purchase services from the NBC.

The North West is already well established as a strong biotechnology centre, with specialised incubators, technology facilities and the infrastructure to have made it the natural choice of location of the NBC. With existing expertise in biomanufacturing, including the Speke Garston Estate and major drug companies such as Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca and Aventis Pharma, the NBC is set to confirm the North West as the definitive biomanufacturing hub for Europe.

An operating company was required for the NBC and, following a competitive tender, Eden BioDesign (sister company to Eden Biopharm Ltd) was selected due to their extensive expertise in all aspects of biopharmaceutical manufacturing and in particular their experience in early stage development. Already based in Merseyside, they are ideally placed to successfully implement such a major investment project.

### Contact details:

Scientific enquiries: Mr Derek Ellison, Business Development Director. Tel: 0151 356 5632 or 07764 195768. Email: [derek.ellison@edenbiopharm.co.uk](mailto:derek.ellison@edenbiopharm.co.uk)

For media and publicity information, please contact Sara Tye, PR officer on 0870 2405536 (or fax 0870 2405537)

Website: <http://www.biomanufacturing.co.uk>