Asia is seeing rapid development in biomedical sciences, with Singapore as a leading bio-cluster. Today, global biomedical companies have set up key business activities including regional headquarters, R&D and manufacturing in Singapore.
Singapore has established strong scientific and clinical excellence that facilitates drug discovery and development. Coupled with its strong capabilities in science and engineering, companies are also carrying out medical technology innovation. Today, more than 4,300 researchers are carrying out biomedical R&D in more than 50 companies and 30 public-sector institutes that expend more than S$1 billion each year.

Tapping on Asia’s Opportunities

Singapore plays an important role in helping companies navigate Asia’s complexities and tap into the region’s markets, talent and intellectual properties.

As companies seek to expand their footprint in Asia to tap the region’s fast-growing healthcare markets, Singapore has emerged as a key location for both global companies and Asian enterprises.

Attracting Scientific and Business Talent

Singapore has attracted the world’s top scientific and business talent to its shores. Edward Holmes (former Vice Chancellor, University of California, San Diego), Judith Swain (University of California, San Diego), Sir George Radda (former Chief Executive, Medical Research Council), Sir David Lane and Birgit Lane (former senior scientists at University of Dundee, Scotland), Alex Matter (former and founding director, Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases), Colin Blakemore (UK Medical Research Council), Philippe Kourilsky (College de France, France), Sydney Brenner (Nobel Laureate, Salk Institute of Biological Sciences), and Yoshiaki Ito (University of Kyoto, Japan) are amongst the scientific leaders who have moved to Singapore to head the city-state’s research institutes, consortia and laboratories.

Focus on Research

Today, eight of the top 10 pharmaceutical and all of the top 10 medical technology companies have their regional headquarters in Singapore. They include Abbott, Bayer Schering Pharma, GE Healthcare, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Quintiles, Roche and sanofi-aventis.
Biomedical Manufacturing

Singapore has established its position as a trusted and competitive site for biomedical manufacturing. Today, eight leading biopharmaceutical companies as well as 25 leading medical technology companies have invested in more than 50 commercial-scale manufacturing facilities.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities that have commenced commercial operations have also received zero major observations from international regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMEA). Additionally, Singapore has established world-class scientific, ethical standards and excellent intellectual property protection for the manufacturing of new modalities (e.g. biologics and cell therapy) in Asia.

In medical technology manufacturing, Singapore has become a leading global site in Asia. Manufacturers in Singapore now produce 10% of the global supply of contact lens, 50% of the world’s thermal cyclers and more than half of the world’s microarrays. Leading cardiac-device manufacturers such as Edwards Lifesciences and Medtronic have also opened their first-in-Asia global facilities here in Singapore.

Who are the leading players here?

**Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology companies and Contract Research Organisations (CROs)**
Abbott, Alcon, AMRI, AstraZeneca, Bayer Healthcare, Baxter, Codexis, CPR Pharma Services, EPIC Bio, GlaxoSmithKline, Kaneka, Lonza, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis, Parexel, Pfizer, PharmaLogicals, PPD, Quintiles, Roche, sanofi-aventis, S*BIO, Takeda and Vela Dx.

**Medical technology companies**

Where do you fit into the picture?

Singapore’s distinction in the biomedical sciences sector stems from its unwavering commitment to the advancement of biomedical technologies and our world-class facilities solely dedicated to the industry’s growing needs. The Singapore-based companies and research organisations are looking for top talent including engineers, scientists and researchers to fuel this industry further. Some of the jobs in demand include:

- Automation Engineer
- Analytical Chemist
- Facilities/Utilities Engineer
- QA Supervisor
- QC Microbiologist
- Maintenance Engineer
- Manufacturing Biotechnologist
- Medical Representatives
- Medical and Regulatory Affairs Director
- Scientist, Analytical Biochemistry
- Scientist, Molecular and Cellular Biology

There is no better time to be in Singapore than now – the city-state is growing economically, with a constant bustle of activity. Situated at the heart of the world’s fastest growing economies, the city is a bridge between the East and West, burgeoning with diversity and opportunities. Couple these factors with the city’s superb physical infrastructure, sophisticated IT network, great variety of living, dining and entertainment options, and you are one of the most livable cities around.
About Contact Singapore

Contact Singapore is an alliance of the Singapore Economic Development Board and Ministry of Manpower. We engage overseas Singaporeans and global talent to work, invest and live in Singapore.

Contact Singapore actively links Singapore-based employers with professionals to support the growth of our key industries. We work with investors to realise their business and investment interests in Singapore.

For more information on working, investing and living in Singapore, please visit www.contactsingapore.sg or scan the QR code.

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