

# Strategic relationship with Catalent underlines Sanofi's commitment to UK manufacturing

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The UK has world leading universities, a highly-skilled workforce and a life sciences ecosystem that has led discoveries with a huge impact for people and patients all across the world. However, for the UK to remain a hub for scientific innovation, it is crucial that all those involved in life sciences work together to maintain momentum and investment in the UK, especially when looking to the landscape beyond Brexit.

This means we must find new ways to collaborate, both across different parts of the life sciences sector, but also within our own industries. New partnerships and cross-sector collaboration is one way to help bolster the UK's position as a leader in world class research and development.

In line with this, Sanofi Active Ingredient Solutions (SAIS) headed by Philippe Clavel, recently underlined its commitment to supporting UK manufacturing by announcing a strategic relationship with Catalent Pharma Solutions; bolstering Catalent's capabilities in the UK and securing continued investment in Sanofi's manufacturing site in Haverhill, Suffolk. The relationship gives Catalent Pharma Solutions access to extended cGMP\* spray drying capacity with the expertise acquired at Haverhill, which is considered to have the largest continuous Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) spray dryer in the world for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

\* current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP)

## At a glance: spray drying technology

Spray drying is an innovative process used in manufacturing to rapidly transform a liquid or slurry into a powdered substance. It's commonly used within the food industry and is increasingly being adopted in the pharmaceutical industry. In pharma, a spray dryer can be used to dry liquid or slurry API or drug products into powders ready to produce powdered tablets or for direct consumption.

- Firstly, the feed (a liquid or slurry mixture) is fed into the drying chamber while being exposed briefly to heat
- The feed droplets then pass through the chamber. This is where the drying of the liquid occurs over a course of a few seconds, depending on the dryer size
- Once complete, a powdered substance is formed and can be removed from the dryer ready for further transformation if required



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Commenting on the partnership, Hugo Fry, Managing Director at Sanofi UK, said: "We recognise the value of strategic relationships and collaborations in supporting the life sciences industry, particularly in the context of the UK's exit from the European Union, to ensure the UK maintains its position as a leader in world class research and development."

One of the main advantages of spray drying technology is its ability to achieve significant time and cost advantages over existing technologies such as freeze drying or vacuum drying.

The deal SAIS has negotiated has led to the creation of more than 20 positions and the business foresees scope for expansion of the relationship. Many companies do not have the scale or capital to invest in such technological advances – a problem that Sanofi has sought to address by making its facility available to other companies manufacturing pharmaceuticals. In opening up this facility to the wider industry, Sanofi hopes to encourage further global investment in the UK's technological capabilities.

Jim Moretta, Site Manager at Sanofi's Haverhill facility added: "We are delighted that Catalent and Sanofi are investing in the innovative technology we have at the site. We need to ensure that nationally and locally we continue to invest in technological and scientific talent in the UK."

Access to talent and expertise locally has been a key ingredient in ensuring this specialised manufacturing technology and capability remains within the UK."

