



Opening of New Capability at Merck's Irvine site

The official opening of the new HTST (High Temperature Short Time) capability at Merck's cell culture media manufacturing site in Irvine took place on Friday 24th May 2019. The new capability was opened by **Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, Ruth Maguire MSP for Cunninghame South and Dieter Hofner PhD, Head of APIs, Excipients and Cell Media Technology Cluster, Merck Life Science.**

Merck is a leading science and technology company with a strong heritage and diverse product portfolio spanning Healthcare, Life Science and Performance Materials. Founded in 1668, they are the world's oldest pharmaceuticals and chemicals company. Merck's UK Life Science business utilises world-class expertise to develop products, services and solutions to tackle the world's toughest challenges.

Their Scottish presence is extremely important to them and they continue to invest and grow the Life Science footprint here, with over 600 employees across five sites. They are very proud of their cell culture media manufacturing site in Irvine which opened a new £20m facility in 2015, part-funded by Scottish Enterprise. The site employs over 200 highly-skilled employees and continues to grow in capacity.

This new HTST capability will support the safe production of cutting-edge medicines and therapies and will complete the industry leading viral mitigation portfolio for pharmaceutical and life science companies and researchers globally.

