

Japan's DSP to buy US cancer start-up for \$2.6 bn

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Japanese drugs giant Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma will buy US biotechnology cancer specialist Boston Biomedical for a price that could hit \$2.6 billion, the companies announced Thursday.

Under the agreed deal, DSP will pay the owners of privately held Boston Biomedical Incorporated \$200 million up front.

The remaining \$2.4 billion would be paid as the five-year-old US firm meets milestones in the development and selling of its stem-cell based cancer-fighting treatments.

One of its treatments, BBI608, is an oral anti-cancer drug which targets cancer [stem cells](#). It is in the preparatory stage for Phase III trials for colorectal cancer.

Last year DSP signed an license option deal for the BB1608 treatment.

Another treatment, BBI503, which aims to kill highly [malignant cancer](#) stem cells, is currently in Phase I clinical trials for advanced solid tumors.

Massachusetts- based Boston Biomedical was founded in 2006 by Chiang Li, who is also the firm's chairman and chief executive.

The company's approach to cancer -- developing treatments aiming at cancer stem cells -- represents "an exciting new frontier for developing

novel drugs against cancer" that can improve on conventional chemotherapy and targeted agents, Li said in a statement.

Masayo Tada, president and CEO of DSP, said Boston Biomedical has "excellent drug discovery/development platform" that will help DSP "make the cancer area one of our future focus therapeutic areas."

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