

GSK says lifts Indian pharmaceutical unit stake to 75%

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GlaxoSmithKline has lifted its stake in the group's Indian subsidiary to 75 percent, the British drugmaker said on Monday.

GSK said in a statement that it had increased its stake in publicly-listed GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited from 50.7 percent in a deal worth about £625 million (\$1.05 billion, 752 million euros).

"We are very pleased with the outcome of this transaction, which further increases our exposure to a strategically important market," said David Redfern, GSK's chief strategy officer.

"It is a significant vote of confidence in the future growth prospects of our pharmaceuticals business in India and underlines GSK's longstanding commitment to the country."

GSK had announced in December its intention to increase its <u>stake</u> to 75 percent, a level that allows the unit to continue trading on the Indian stock market.

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