

AstraZeneca in Algeria \$125 mn pharmaceuticals deal

June 2 2015

British pharmaceuticals giant AstraZeneca plc signed Tuesday a deal with private Algerian firms Salhi and Hasnaoui to build a \$125 million (112 million euro) plant in the North African country, the partners announced.

The AstraZeneca al-Djazair plant, due to be operational in October, will produce medicines to treat cardiovascular and gastroenterological diseases, as well as cancer and diabetes, a statement added.

The two Algerian companies will hold a combined 51 percent of the venture, and AstraZeneca the balance.

A total of 141 new production facilities are now being built in Algeria, adding to 75 already in existence, according to the <u>health ministry</u>.

Algeria imported 1.9 billion euros worth of pharmaceuticals last year, with local production accounting for 40 percent of the market.

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