

AstraZeneca opens research center as UK builds science hub

November 23 2021



Britain's Prince Charles receives a demonstration of how augmented reality helps with Hololens technology during a visit to AstraZeneca to officially open their new global Research and Development facility at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, England, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Credit: Chris Jackson/PA via AP

Prince Charles praised Cambridge as a center of scientific collaboration

Tuesday as the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca opened a 1 billion-pound (\$1.34 billion) research center, hoping to build on work in developing one of the first COVID-19 vaccines.

The 19,000 square-meter (more than 200,000 square-foot) complex near the University of Cambridge will house more than 2,200 research scientists. It joins a cluster of businesses seeking to make Cambridge a hub for life sciences research similar to what California's Silicon Valley is for the technology industry.

"Having myself studied at Cambridge ... over 50 years ago now, one of the things which I have always found so special about this city is how it attracts the meeting of minds, sparks unique cross-disciplinary conversations and nurtures collaboration and ingenuity," Charles said at the official opening.

The Cambridge life sciences cluster includes 631 companies that employ almost 21,000 people and generate annual revenue of 7 billion pounds, according to Cambridge Ahead, which promotes business development in the city.

AstraZeneca worked with Oxford University to develop one of the first COVID-19 vaccines approved by regulators in the U.K., European Union and other countries. The company and its licensing partners have delivered more than 1.5 billion vaccine doses around the world after pledging to sell it on a non-profit basis during the pandemic.



Britain's Prince Charles, left, talks to Executive Vice-President of Biopharmaceuticals R&D AstraZeneca Mene Pangalos during a visit to AstraZeneca to officially open their new global Research and Development facility at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, England, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Credit: Chris Jackson/PA via AP



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Britain's Prince Charles, left, is shown Luke Jerram's Covid vaccine sculpture by Chairman AstraZeneca Leif Johansson and CEO AstraZeneca Pascal Soriot, right, during a visit to AstraZeneca to officially open their new global Research and Development facility at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, England, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Credit: Chris Jackson/PA via AP



From left, CEO of AstraZeneca Pascal Soriot, Prince Charles, Britain's Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng and AstraZeneca Chairman Leif Johansson attend a ceremony to officially open AstraZeneca's new global Research and Development facility at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, in Cambridge, England, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. The pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca's 1 billion-pound (\$1.34 billion) research center is hoping to build on its work in developing one of the first COVID-19 vaccines. The 19,000 square-meter (more than 200,000 square-foot) complex will house more than 2,200 research scientists. Credit: Chris Jackson/PA via AP

AstraZeneca said last week that it planned to start to sell the vaccine at a "modest" profit, though it would continue to offer it to developing countries at cost.

AstraZeneca also plans to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve the vaccine.

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