

News Release

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Paves the Way for its Innovation Hub in Southern China

- **Company signed agreement with Guangzhou Development District**

Darmstadt, Germany, November 12, 2018 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, the vibrant science and technology company, today signed an agreement with the Guangzhou Development District on innovation development in Southern China. Pursuant to this agreement, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will establish an innovation hub in Guangzhou scheduled to open September 2019.

“China is a major innovation hotspot and one of our most important growth markets. We are now creating a strong platform for us and our partners to drive innovation in Southern China. At the same time, we are strengthening our footprint in this vibrant ecosystem of innovation,” said Kai Beckmann, Member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and CEO Performance Materials, at the signing ceremony in Guangzhou today.

“We are very glad that Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has chosen Guangzhou Development District,” said Hong Qian, Deputy Director of Huangpu District Government of the Guangzhou City. “With the extensive facilities and innovation ecosystem in Guangdong, we believe that the new Guangdong Innovation Hub will be successful.”

Designed to take advantage of the innovation ecosystem consisting of numerous technology companies, startups, universities, research institutes, and related facilities in Guangdong, the company’s Guangdong Innovation Hub will be located at the International Biotech Island of Guangzhou Development District, Huangpu



District, Guangzhou City. The 700 sqm hub will be equipped with a showroom to demonstrate the latest technologies of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, innovation projects and future research direction of the company's three business sectors, Healthcare, Life Science and Performance Materials.

This innovation hub will integrate the advanced technologies and expertise of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and its partners such as startups, academic institutions, business partners, and local government. Together they will develop innovative technologies and promote business growth in the strategic markets of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, while fostering innovative thinking among the employees of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The innovation hub will seize new opportunities in Healthcare, Life Science and Performance Materials and cross-sectors, with the goal of bringing new technologies and solutions to the Chinese market and to the world.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has continuously invested in the development of innovation of China. The [Accelerator](#) for example has programs in Darmstadt and started a recent one in [China](#). Selected startups will have the chance to join the innovation hub in China first and then move to the Innovation Center at the company's headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany, to develop their projects further and explore the European market. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, aims to identify and support promising startups with a focus on those operating in the fields of healthcare, life science, performance materials, biotech and other emerging technology fields in their seed to series A funding phase. The three-month China Accelerator Program will start in 2019 and will host five to eight startups each time. The application period is already open and runs until January 25, 2019.

The strong commitment of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to China is not only reflected by today's news, but for instance also by an agreement with Alibaba Health signed in June, by the opening of a new technology center for its OLED customers in Shanghai in the same month and by the establishment of its innovation hub in Shanghai in February. In addition, a new Life Science Center is to be opened in 2019 near the company's new pharmaceutical production plant in Nantong, China. Together, the two plants represent a total investment of € 250 million by Merck

KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in China. More than 3,500 employees work for Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in China in its three business sectors: Healthcare, Life Science and Performance Materials.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 53,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2017, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 15.3 billion in 66 countries. Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the „Merck“ name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.