

## News Release

Your Contact

[gangolf.schrimpf@emdgroup.com](mailto:gangolf.schrimpf@emdgroup.com)

Phone: +49 6151 72-9591

November 26, 2020

### **Digitalization of Production: Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Siemens Collaborate**

- **Collaboration is to advance modular production in industry**
- **In the future, it will be possible to meet customer and market requirements quicker, more efficiently and more flexibly**
- **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, invests € 10 million in modular technical infrastructure**

Darmstadt, Germany, November 26, 2020– Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced a collaborative partnership with Siemens for the digitalization of production. This partnership is to result in the development of a process control system for the modular production of innovative materials and products for the electronics, pharmaceutical and life science industries. In the first phase, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will invest € 10 million in the realization of this plant. The project is part of a € 1 billion investment program announced last year for global headquarters in Darmstadt up until 2025. It will also be funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy because, thanks to the modular, flexible and efficient technology, the carbon footprint of production can be reduced.

“In the smart factory of tomorrow, everything will revolve around flexibility, networking and efficiency,” said Kai Beckmann, CEO Performance Materials and Executive Board member of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, responsible for the company’s Darmstadt site. “The time needed from the product idea to market readiness is a critical success factor. The resulting technology platform for standardized, modular production will also be usable in product development in the



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future. This allows data-based decisions to be made as early as the product development phase and applied seamlessly to the production process. Therefore, in the future, we will be able to respond quicker and even more flexibly to high customer requirements.”

“We know that new production plants have to be more flexible and more efficient in order to support faster product changes. We are therefore delighted to be partnering with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. This will create new opportunities for us to drive forward modular production and to meet growing requirements for chemical and pharmaceutical processes in our joint development work,” said Eckard Eberle, CEO of Siemens Process Automation.

The objective of this collaboration between Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Siemens is the joint development of an overall system for automating the modular production of tomorrow. Special software components (Module Type Packages, MTP) form the basis for managing modular production equipment. Using a supervisory control system, known as the process orchestration layer (POL), various production modules can be interlinked to an overall process. In the future, this should occur without additional programming effort – similar to the USB standard for electronic devices. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is taking on the establishment of the production infrastructure; Siemens is responsible for the development of POL technology.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, already has experience with modular production systems. The collaboration is meant to advance the concept of flexible and simple interlinking of individual modules globally in the process development and production network of all business sectors at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 57,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people’s lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging

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diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2019, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 16.2 billion in 66 countries. The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark “Merck” internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company’s technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.