Eli Lilly chooses Leiden Bio Science Park for major expansion, boosting the Netherlands' life-sciences ecosystem

Eli Lilly and Company's decision to invest more than USD 3 billion in a new manufacturing facility in Katwijk marks a significant step forward for the Dutch life-sciences landscape. The planned site, which will become part of the Leiden Bio Science Park ecosystem, is intended to strengthen the company's global supply chain and increase its capacity to deliver next-generation medicines.

The investment comes with 500 new high-skilled positions. These will range from engineers and laboratory specialists to scientists and operational staff. Working with advanced technologies, these teams will focus on the production of complex, often biologically derived medicines. As a result, the site is expected to contribute not only to economic growth in the region but also to the development of expertise within the Netherlands' rapidly expanding biopharmaceutical sector.

A catalyst for the regional knowledge economy

Over the last decades, the Leiden Bio Science Park has grown into a leading European cluster where research institutions, start-ups, established biotech companies and industrial partners cooperate intensively. Stakeholders view Lilly's arrival as a further reinforcement of this collaboration model.

According to the company, the combination of a skilled talent pool, reliable logistics and a proven manufacturing environment was decisive in choosing the location. David A. Ricks, Lilly's chair and CEO, highlighted Leiden's long track record in pharmaceutical R&D and described the region as a stable, innovation-friendly environment suited for substantial, long-term investment.

Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Vincent Karremans similarly welcomed the decision, noting that the selection of Katwijk and Leiden—after comparisons with various European sites—confirms the Netherlands' attractiveness for innovative, research-driven industry. He emphasized that the project is expected to strengthen national and regional collaboration in the development of new medical treatments that directly improve patients' lives.

Strengthening an end-to-end life-sciences ecosystem

Once operational, the new plant will become embedded in Leiden's "end-to-end" life-sciences chain, integrating early-stage research, technology development and large-scale biopharmaceutical production within a single region. Representatives of the Leiden Bio Science Park consider this structure essential to maintaining international competitiveness, particularly within red biotechnology and the broader life-sciences and health domain.

By keeping knowledge creation, innovation and manufacturing geographically close, the region continues to attract new companies and investment. Lilly's choice is seen as evidence that this integrated model works—and that it offers a platform capable of supporting the development and production of modern, high-value medicines.

Additional momentum comes from recent findings by the European Patent Office, which identified Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) as one of Europe's leaders in technology transfer. This strong connection between academic research and market-ready innovation aligns closely with the type of activities Lilly aims to expand, reinforcing Leiden's role as a place where scientific breakthroughs are translated into real-world health solutions.

Broad impact for the sector and the region

The combined effects of job creation, scientific collaboration, knowledge exchange and added manufacturing capacity make Lilly's investment a milestone for the Dutch life-sciences sector. Once the Katwijk facility becomes operational, it is expected to play an important role in the global distribution of a new generation of therapeutics.

With this project, the Leiden Bio Science Park strengthens its ambition to develop into one of Europe's most influential health and biomedical innovation hubs.

LEIDEN BIO SCIENCE PARK