A sign in favour of Germany as a business, research and pharmaceutical location

Lauterbach: ‚A motorway of fast studies'

‚A decision that supports and strengthens Germany as a business location' (Habeck); ‚A really good day for Germany' (Lauterbach). It is rare for two federal ministers - Prof Dr Karl Lauterbach (Health) and Dr Robert Habeck (Economics and Vice-Chancellor) - to appear together at a press conference organised by a pharmaceutical company. All that was missing was Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Federal Minister of Education and Research, to round off the triumvirate of ministries significantly involved in the topic. After all, the research-based pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company announced far-reaching investment plans in Germany in Berlin: from 2024, the construction of a new high-tech production facility in Alzey - subject to the approval of the state authorities - is to begin at a cost of 2.3 billion euros. Around 1,900 employees will initially work in the new production network, rising to around 1,000 after completion in 2027.

>> ‚This is an important decision that will further strengthen Germany as a pharmaceutical location,' said Prof Dr Karl Lauterbach, Federal Minister of Health .The criticism of Germany in this area was ‚simply not right'. Lauterbach continued: ‚We have a strong pharmaceutical industry and are benefiting from additional investment.' This is thanks to years of very good basic science, but also to equally good engineering and skilled labour. This means that the conditions for basic science and production in Germany are excellent.

What is still missing, Lauterbach wants to create together with companies such as Eli Lilly and Company, in which a ‚next stage' is to be ignited: Research and production of innovative products should be ‚even more likely to be brought to Germany'. To this end, ‚important laws' have already been passed and another important law will soon be introduced to facilitate and accelerate medical research in Germany. The aim of this medical research law is to simplify and speed up the remaining problems with data protection and ethics in the authorisation of studies and at the same time improve safety. Lauterbach: ‚There will be less bureaucracy and a motorway of faster studies.' This is something that other countries would also benefit from because the results of the resulting studies would in turn form the basis for new products and the basis for the further development of existing products.

However, as science will also change in medicine and especially in pharmaceutical research because artificial intelligence and digitalisation will play an increasing role, his ministry is also active here: with the Digital Act and the Health Data Use Act, ‚we want to make it possible to develop active ingredients more quickly in the future using artificial intelligence processes' and their effect can then also be recognised much more quickly in routine care. These are possibilities that previously only existed in pioneering countries such as Israel. ‚This is exactly what I want to do on a much larger scale, so that Germany can really play a completely different role in research, production and the further development of medicines and medical products,' said Lauterbach. According to the Health Minister, this could only be achieved because ‚we are also trusted'. Lauterbach: ‚And Lilly brings trust today.' The company is investing in Germany and making a good investment that will pay off for the company because the products manufactured in this way will help patients. There are also research announcements for new products.

With the planned plant, Lilly intends to expand its global production network for injectable drugs and the associated injection aids (pens). The aim is to reliably meet the growing demand for diabetes medication, among other things. Since 2014, Lilly has expanded its portfolio by a total of 21 drugs and plans to introduce further drugs in the coming years. ‚With every investment in our global manufacturing capabilities, we are committed to the patients of today - and the people who may need our medicines in the future,' said Edgardo Hernandez, Executive Vice President and President Lilly Manufacturing Operations. ‚This state-of-the-art injectable manufacturing site with the latest technology will enable us to continue to reliably provide safe, high-quality medicines.'

With the new plant in Alzey, Lilly will operate a total of six manufacturing sites in Europe - including one in nearby Fegersheim near Strasbourg in France - creating operational synergies. Thanks to the early involvement of Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) and the trusting cooperation throughout the entire period, Lilly was able to find the best possible location for this major project from a range of attractive options.

‚At Lilly, we are always looking for partners who share our vision of improving people's lives and want to help us bring the next generation of medicines to market,' said Ilya Yuffa, Executive Vice President and President of Lilly International. ‚With our investment plans in Alzey, we want to take cooperation and innovation in Germany and Europe to a new level and pursue a common goal: finding sustainable solutions for patients.' In the past three years, Lilly has already announced investments of more than eleven billion US dollars in production facilities worldwide.

With the investments of up to USD 100 million also announced, the company intends to strengthen its relationships with the scientific and public sectors in Europe, support the start-up ecosystem in the life science industry and diversify Lilly's growing presence in Europe. The goal: to accelerate the development of innovative medicines that can improve people's lives around the world<<

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Citation

Stegmaier, P.: „Lauterbach: ‚A motorway of fast studies'„, in „Monitor Versorgungsforschung" (06/23), p. 29. http://doi.org/10.24945/MVF.06.23.1866-0533.2568