

Bringing Biologic Drugs to Market

Taron Solutions seeks growth in Hong Kong - a viable and competitive biotech hub.



For a drug to be successful, it must undergo vigorous procedures to ensure its efficacy and safety prior to its commercial launch. One that may seem promising during the discovery phase may not perform well in clinical trials if it fails in any part of chemistry, manufacturing and control (CMC) requirements. Taron Solutions is a contract development manufacturing organisation (CDMO) that focuses on biologic drugs, and is headed by an experienced drug development management team that understands the strict drug regulatory requirements. The company is poised to be a leading resource in Hong Kong's budding biotech industry.

"Within two years of operation, Taron has built five pipelines for development with four new drug entities," revealed Dr Alan Chang, CEO and Founder of Taron, who appreciates the government's assistance through its Incubio at Hong Kong Science & Technology Park and ITC grants. "One of the drugs in development is sponsored by a Hong Kong government grant as well as a memorandum of understanding with a Hong Kong listed pharmaceutical company. We have filed intellectual property applications for some of the platforms we are building to improve drug development cycles. We continuously push the technology front."

Opportunities for R&D financing

Chang believes that Hong Kong has a rich and thriving international ecosystem for financing and investment opportunities to help Taron become a major CDMO competitor internationally. He cites the city's simple and low tax system and local talent as key factors to its rapid success. "Our company would not be able to compete in the global CDMO market without a strong research and development (R&D) platform," Chang said.

"We help companies develop their drug to commercial potential while ensuring that it is optimised and can survive the scrutiny of the regulatory environment. This means that the drug needs to be manufactured and maintained under stringent quality with documented stability, safety and efficacious data. The know-how and experience of every department at Taron is pertinent for the process."

Taron's Hong Kong office acts as its R&D centre, with future plans for production capability to help other companies move products into clinical trial. Its staff consists of 12 people with four technical and business advisors. "We are currently expanding to hire more local talent to fill our lab technician role as well as to help

with our drug production capabilities," Chang noted. "Hong Kong has many world class universities nurturing graduates in the fields of biology, biochemistry and engineering. These are fields where we seek talent."

Success for one and all

Chang is grateful to InvestHK for promoting Taron to potential investors and clients around the world. "We believe that our growth will help affirm Hong Kong's status as a viable and competitive biotech hub," Chang stated. "Our presence will no doubt help other companies consider setting up in Hong Kong. Our success is everyone's success. Hong Kong is a dynamic and very convenient international city to work and live in. It is compact yet extremely vibrant, helping us to recruit many young international professionals."

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Dr Alan Chang
CEO and Founder
Taron

Taron Solutions

- A Contract development manufacturing organisation that focuses on biologics drugs in Hong Kong, Taron fulfils the gap between research and commercialisation of drug development
- The company recently expanded to a 4,000 square foot facility that houses gene modification, cell line development and banking, process scale-up, pre-clinical production and quality control

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