



News Release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 17th AUGUST 2020, 00:00 GMT

MSD Contacts: James Humphreys
+44 (7974) 444832

Amelia Khanna
+44 (7974) 444487

MSD announces location of new state-of-the-art Discovery Research Centre and UK Headquarters in Central London

Hoddesdon UK., August 17, 2020 – MSD (tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (NYSE: MRK), a global healthcare company, has selected a site for its future Discovery Research Centre and UK Headquarters at the heart of London’s academic and life science cluster in Camden, adjacent to King’s Cross and St Pancras Stations.

Pending planning permission, Belgrove House will be a new 220,000 square foot specialised office and life sciences laboratory facility fronting onto the Euston Road which will accommodate approximately 800 MSD employees. The site sits within the ‘Knowledge Quarter’ in Camden, London, containing one of the highest densities of knowledge-based businesses, cultural and scientific organisations anywhere in the world.

MSD is proud to be investing in the UK at a time when the UK Government and the life sciences community are actively seeking to drive R&D intensity and economic growth, whilst cementing the UK’s status as a globally leading scientific power. The development recognizes MSD’s confidence and optimism in the UK’s future role at the forefront of developing science.

Minister for Life Sciences, Nadhim Zahawi MP said:

“Today’s announcement demonstrates a firm commitment by MSD to the UK’s thriving life sciences sector. Through our ambitious R&D roadmap we are making the UK the best place in the world for scientists and researchers to live and work. I’m delighted that MSD is investing in a Discovery Research Centre, which will help to create more highly skilled local jobs while also supporting our ambitions to cement the UK as a science superpower.”

The new MSD Discovery Centre and headquarters development at Belgrove House will be focused on delivering a high quality and sustainable design, using sustainable materials as well as reducing carbon emissions generated through construction and operation. It will also provide step-free access for King's Cross and St Pancras Stations and aims to transform the area surrounding the site through proposals including a publicly-accessible entrance into a café and event, meeting and education space from Argyle Square to the south.

MSD has already established a discovery science team working in laboratories located at the London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC) and the neighbouring Francis Crick Institute and in early 2021, MSD's UK Business Headquarters will move from Hertfordshire to interim offices in Moorgate.

This new site will be the latest in a series of R&D discovery hubs MSD has established around the world. These facilities bring together scientists of different disciplines in an intimate, collaborative and entrepreneurial environment, focused on solving difficult biomedical problems. The facilities are strategically located in the vicinity of clusters of biomedical research organisations enabling MSD teams to develop collaborations with scientists at world-leading academic centers and hospitals as well as emerging biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

The planning application for Belgrove House is being submitted by the end of August and subject to planning being granted in early 2021, and starting on site later in the year, MSD expect to take occupation 2025.

David Peacock, Managing Director, MSD UK and Ireland said:

"I am very excited by the prospect of bringing all our colleagues together under one roof where we can research, work and collaborate closely together in our new purpose-built London facility. This R&D investment shows that the UK is a key player in discovering and developing innovative therapies that save and improve lives both here and around the world. Combined with our belief that collaboration is vital to fighting some of the world's most challenging diseases, I'm looking forward to partnering with the NHS to ensure that the innovations in medicines and treatments that will be developed in London can support transformation of care delivered by the NHS and improve health outcomes in the UK."

Fiona Marshall, Vice President Head of Neuroscience and Head of Discovery Research for MSD UK said:

“We have invested in discovery hubs with the goal of broadening our network of academic, biotech and venture collaborators. We identified London as the location for our new Discovery Hub and UK HQ as a centre of excellence for the life science community. The site is adjacent to St Pancras International, King’s Cross and Euston stations with connectivity to the UK and rest of Europe and we are excited about being close to world leading universities and hospitals in London – many of whom we already collaborate with. We are determined to build on our fundamental research strengths to deliver innovation to patients and doctors worldwide and invest in opportunities to address significant medical needs through our own internal research and discovery efforts and the best external science.”

About MSD

For more than 125 years, MSD has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world’s most challenging diseases in pursuit of our mission to save and improve lives. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. We demonstrate our commitment to patients and population health by increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to prevent and treat diseases that threaten people and animals – including cancer, infectious diseases such as HIV and Ebola, and emerging animal diseases – as we aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world. For more information, visit www.msd-uk.com and connect with us @MSDintheUK on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Forward-Looking Statement of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA

This news release of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (the “company”) includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the company’s management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to, general industry conditions and competition; general economic factors, including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations; the impact of the recent global outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation in the United States and internationally; global trends toward health care cost containment; technological advances, new products and patents attained by competitors; challenges inherent in new product development, including obtaining regulatory approval; the company's ability to accurately predict future market conditions; manufacturing difficulties or delays; financial instability of international economies and sovereign risk; dependence on the effectiveness of the company's patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent litigation, and/or regulatory actions.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the company's 2019 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the company's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC's Internet site (www.sec.gov).

#