

Briefing on Advent Bioservices and Advanced Biomanufacturing in Cambridgeshire



Advent Bioservices and the Sawston Advanced Manufacturing Facility

Advent Bioservices Ltd. has been a leading U.K. Contract Development & Manufacturing Organisation (CDMO) since 2016, specialising in advanced cell-based therapies, primarily for patients with cancer. Advent was recently acquired and became a wholly owned subsidiary of Northwest Biotherapeutics (NWBio). Advent has been managing the phased development of an 88,000ft² state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Sawston in Cambridgeshire, and conducting the manufacturing operations. The Sawston facility is one of the largest such facilities in the U.K. and Advent's operation is one of the first to be awarded a license by the MHRA for commercial production and distribution of cell-based therapies in addition to production for clinical trials and compassionate use. The license allows for both UK and global operations.

Advanced Therapies and Life Sciences as National and Local Policy Priorities

The life sciences and pharmaceutical sector is central to the economic success of Cambridge and is a stated priority in both national and local

policy. Within this sector, Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (cell and gene therapies) and advanced biomanufacturing have been recognised as particular priorities. The UK Government's Life Sciences Vision, published by the Department for Business and Trade, alongside the UK Industrial Strategy and the Levelling Up White Paper, identifies advanced therapies and biomanufacturing as critical drivers of innovation, productivity and patient benefit. Locally, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, the Greater Cambridge Economic Strategy and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review all recognise life sciences as a cornerstone of regional growth and emphasise the need for specialist research, development and GMP manufacturing facilities.

The UK Need for Advanced Biomanufacturing Capacity and Specialist Skills

To achieve these national goals, there is an urgent UK-wide need for more manufacturing facilities and capacity. Such state-of-the-art facilities require specialised expertise and compliance with extensive Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) regulatory requirements. The facilities require teams of highly trained technical personnel, ranging from technicians up to PhD scientists.

Building a Skilled Workforce and GMP Regulatory Capability

Advent has built the operating teams at the Sawston facility from the ground up, recruiting and training over 100 such personnel at the Sawston facility. Advent has also built the Sawston facility's regulatory compliance from the ground up, drafting thousands of operating documents that are required for such compliance and establishing the necessary monitoring and control systems. The experienced technical personnel, regulatory documents and systems are important assets in addition to the state-of-the-art facility itself.

Strategic Cryostorage Capacity for Advanced Medicines

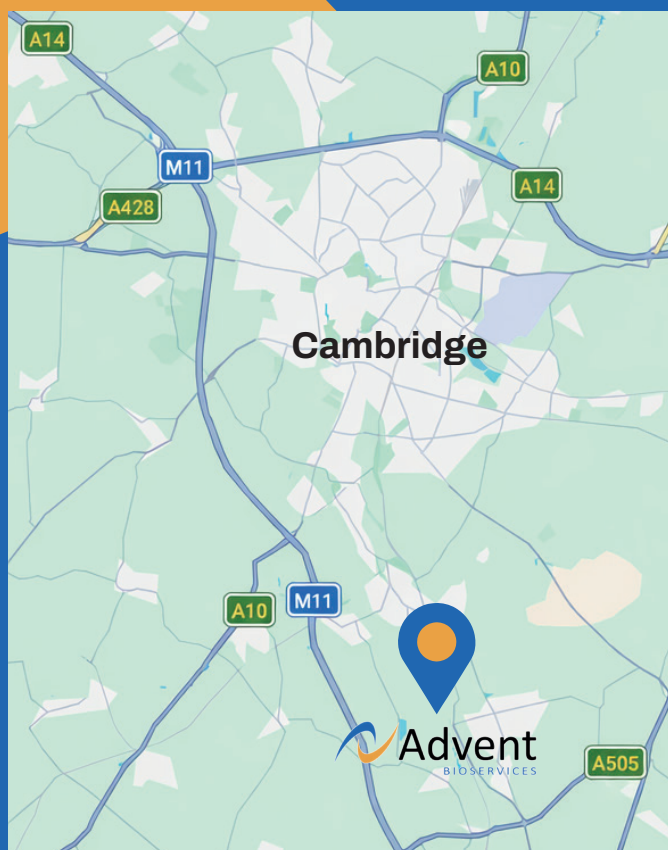
In addition to development of manufacturing operations in the Sawston facility, Advent has also developed the largest controlled cryostorage capacity in the region, with existing capacity for controlled storage of 3 million vials of medical products. Cryostorage is necessary for many types of advanced medicines, and large-scale capacity for controlled storage is necessary for any wide distribution of such medicines, including in a pandemic or other public health situation. To date, only about 25% of the 88,000ft² Sawston facility has been built out. There is enormous potential for expansion through buildout of the remaining 75% of the space. Such further buildout would also create hundreds of additional high-value jobs, with a total workforce of around 400.

Capacity for Expansion and High-Value Job Creation

Advent Bioservices works with a range of other local and UK-wide biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies involved in the development of advanced, novel and bespoke personalised medicines. Advent is recognised as a leader in providing specialist expertise in living-cell products, complex regulatory compliance, and scalable GMP manufacturing. Advent's services can help accelerate the other companies' novel medicines.

Contribution to the UK Life Sciences Ecosystem and Economic Objectives

Investment in Advent/NWBio and the Sawston facility will directly support national and local priorities by strengthening domestic manufacturing of advanced medicines, enabling the translation of research into clinical applications and reinforcing Cambridge's position as a globally significant life sciences centre.



Advent Bioservices Ltd,
Sawston Business Park, Sawston CB22 3JG