Cytotoxic Frequently Asked Questions

What investments will be made for the new cytotoxics facility?

The investment consists of 3 parts:

- Fermentation and chemical capabilities of all scales to give customers the opportunity to manufacture complex cytotoxins with confidence at Lonza. The site will have the lowest occupational exposure limits (OELs) to safeguard employees and the environment.
- SSP build-out: Investment in infrastructure and clean rooms including gowning area and airlocks fully dedicated to the chemical production and isolation of cytostatic and cytotoxic compounds. The entire setup will be constructed in a modular and very flexible way in order to accommodate a wide range of product / process requirements. The investment will include a new building fully dedicated to the microbial fermentation of cytotoxic compounds. Main equipment for this building will include fermenters in the range of 50 to 1000 liter and a filtration unit.
- Upgrade of existing 15 m^3 fermenter in Visp, Switzerland so that it can be used for the production of larger amounts of highly active compounds.

Is this investment customer funded? No, Lonza is funding the capital expenditure based on a mixture both client commitment and anticipated market opportunity.

What is the investment amount? CHF 24mio

Which products are going into this plant? Cytotoxic products, either from fermentation or standard synthetic chemistry, primarily for use in oncology therapies

What capacities will be added (apart from the 15m3 fermenter)? We will add several chemical reactors ranging from 60-630 liters and 200L fermentation equipment.

Is the expansion secured by contracts? Capacity will be available for new clients. Commitment for production of a commercial product has been obtained and several other contracts are in late negotiation.

Will this capacity increase improve cytotoxic capabilities for just pure chemical customers or also for ADC customers? Having cytotoxic manufacturing capability on site improves our offering in ADC's as we can support multiple stages of the complicated ADC supply chain. The facility will also be of interest to non-ADC cytotoxic developers.

How much final product can you get out of the new plant? Quantities are very product and process specific. We will be able to supply GMP gram quantities up to tens of kilos. This is sufficient to cover the current needs of clinical as well as commercial products.