

Seeing good demand for biologics manufacturing: Syngene CEO Jonathan Hunt

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Synopsis

In an interview to ET, Jonathan Hunt, CEO and MD of Syngene said the company has spare capacity and is also investing on expansion of microbial and mammalian manufacturing capacities to absorb the pent up demand for biological manufacturing.

ET Bureau

Syngene

NSE -0.48 % International, the listed contract research and manufacturing services arm of

Biocon

NSE 2.72 %, said it is seeing a rising number of client enquiries for biologics manufacturing, as worldover the facilities meant to biologics manufacturing were repurposed for making of COVID-19 vaccines and therapies.



In an interview to ET, Jonathan Hunt, CEO and MD of Syngene said the company has spare capacity and is also investing on expansion of microbial and mammalian manufacturing capacities to absorb the pent up demand for biological manufacturing.

"There's a given amount of manufacturing capacity installed in the world at any given time. Normally there's an element of spare capacity to support growth. Something like the pandemic has suddenly appeared and has consumed an awful lot of that spare capacity (for COVID vaccines), and there's a lead time to add new capacities. It takes one to two years or more to design, build, qualify, get approvals for new manufacturing capacity," Hunt said.

"We built new capacity over the last two or three years. We've got spare capacity. I'm seeing quite a lot of interest from customers, looking to secure that. Over the next 1-3 years, the biologics manufacturing business should grow quite well," Hunt added.

Syngene has USFDA approved biologics manufacturing facility at Bangalore, the company caters to early stage, late stage and commercial launch supply requirements for its clients.

Hunt said Syngene is also seeing the revival of demand for discovery services, as the markets in the US and Europe begin the process of returning to normal operations.

The US and Europe constitute 86 percent of Syngene's clientele.

Hunt said that Syngene will be investing \$100-\$120 million as capex in FY22, mainly towards expansion of campus in Hyderabad to augment its discovery research services business. The company is also adding new sterile fill finish facility to support clinical scale beginning of the next year.

In addition to organic expansion, Hunt said Syngene is also constantly "scanning the horizon" for niche acquisition opportunities that gives it access to latest technology and platforms.

"Things that speed up the way in which you can discover drugs. So technologies that automate systems and processes. we are always interested," Hunt said.

In addition Hunt said the company is also looking at adding or expanding capabilities in CAR-T, (gene therapy), Small interfering RNA (siRNA), Antibody-drug conjugates (ADC), PROTAC (drugs that degrade targeted proteins) and mRNA.

"How can you speed up the time from Gene to GMP, to get from that first idea to actually getting something actionable in the clinic, is it,"

Hunt expressed confidence about Syngene ending FY22 with a revenue growth in mid-teens.

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