Hovione

In it for life

International CDMO strengthens its presence in Japan: from active pharmaceutical ingredients to formulations, all at the same location

With more than six decades of experience in pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, Hovione is an international CDMO offering a comprehensive range of services for New Molecular Entities (NMEs), including drug substances, intermediates, and drug products. The company also supplies niche generic APIs and delivers advanced technologies supporting multiple drug delivery platforms, including oral, injectable, inhalation, and topical formulations.

Today, Hovione employs 2,500 people worldwide and operates 900 m^3 of manufacturing capacity across four sites in Europe, the U.S. and Asia. Japan has played an important role in the company's global strategy since its early years. Initial export activities were followed in 2017 by the establishment of a Japanese subsidiary in Osaka.

With development labs located in Lisbon (Portugal), and New Jersey (USA), Hovione consistently provides superior solutions tailored to complex pharmaceutical challenges, supporting its partners throughout the entire pharmaceutical life cycle. The company is renowned for its 20-year global leadership and unmatched expertise in pharmaceutical spray drying to enhance the solubility and bioavailability of oral medicines, as well as for its pioneering continuous tableting technology. "Our advanced amorphous solid dispersions (ASDs) by spray drying platform resonates strongly with our Japanese customers seeking scientific partnership, predictable performance, and robust commercialization pathways," said Mr. Yuken Kyoyama, General Manager in Japan.

The company continually co-develops solutions with customers and leading technology partners. Recent collaborations are expanding the company´s portfolio of bioavailability solutions such as Dispersome™ technology with Zerion Pharma, enabling more sustainable and efficient chemistry through partnerships with Dragonfly Technologies (micellar chemistry) and Microinnova (flow chemistry), as well as the adoption of next-generation continuous tableting with GEA. Alliances in respiratory drug delivery with H&T Presspart and IDC are expanding the integrated API-to-device offering. In parallel, new capabilities in aseptic particles and novel stabilizing excipients, driven by Hovione synthetic sugars, continue to mature.

Hovione has a global manufacturing footprint, with operating sites in Portugal (Loures), the U.S. (New Jersey), Ireland (Cork), and Macau (China).

Recent expansion includes the completion of a $100 million investment cycle at the New Jersey site, including a new 31,000sq. ft. facility featuring two commercial-scale size-3 spray dryers. This investment more than doubles Hovione´s U.S. spray-drying capacity. In parallel, a $200 million investment is underway in a new 42 hectares site in Portugal, scheduled to open in 2027, alongside an expansion in Ireland that nearly doubled spray drying capacity and further strengthened its leadership.

To further support customers—particularly in Japan, where supply reliability and integrated solutions are valued—Hovione offers a "One-Site-Stop®" model combining drug substance, intermediates, and drug product at a single site under one quality system. "This approach minimizes transfer risks and compresses timelines, qualities that align closely with the expectations of our Japanese customers," explained Mr. Kyoyama.

Hovione currently partners with 19 of the world's top 20 pharmaceutical companies and supports up to 10% of the new drug applications submitted to the U.S. FDA on any given year, contributing to medicines that reach about 80 million patients.

Regarding the future, Mr. Kyoyama reinforced that the company "will continue to invest, innovate, and grow—always guided by the needs of our customers and partners aligning seamlessly with their high standards and expectations".

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