



New company launches in Perth

 By Megan Brodie

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A former Pfizer Australia executive with more than 25 years experience with the company and who managed its Perth manufacturing sterile injectable facility for the past five years has been appointed President of the newly formed contract development and manufacturing organisation established to run the plant, NovaCina.

Following its acquisition of Pfizer's Perth-based manufacturing facility last week, private investment firm Bridgewest Group announced the formation of NovaCina and that a number of senior staff from the Pfizer plant would assume senior roles at the new entity.

Pfizer Site Leader Brett Alderson (main image) has been appointed NovaCina President while Pfizer Supply Chain Leader Martina Killackey is Supply Chain Vice President.

Bridgewest Co-Founder and CEO Dr Masood Tayebi was in Perth last week for the launch of NovoCina, which is now a sister company to BioCina, the Adelaide microbial drug contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) Bridgewest acquired from Pfizer in 2020.

Dr Tayebi said the two Australian CDMOs "will fuel global access to high-quality drugs, capitalising on the excellent reputation of the region, the facility, and the team".

“We see



tremendous opportunity in the region, recognised for industry leading medical science and an Australian Government that is proactively increasing its commitment to be a global leader in pharmaceutical manufacturing,” he said.

Brett Alderson said NovaCina is well positioned to meet the rising demand for pharma products, both regionally and globally.

“The Australian Government has several health and medical industry programs that encourage end-to-end pharma production, from research to developmental pipelines to in-patient dosing,” he said.

***“In addition to driving drug sovereign capabilities and capacity, Australia is burgeoning as a global leader in pharma manufacturing. We have secure and advanced infrastructure, a strong regulatory environment and tax incentives that add tangible value.*”**

“We are located in an exciting geographical region, close to Asia and with strong and continuing ties with major markets in the US and Europe. We are a friendly country that is easy to work with.”

Alderson also described his Perth staff of more than 400 people as “quite exceptional in the industry” with an average tenure of over 15 years.

“As such, we have a longstanding history together of delivering premium quality products with agility and professionalism,” he said. “There is a personal dedication inherent in all of us to consistently rise above expectations. I am honoured to take the helm at NovaCina and champion the vibrant pharma community in Perth.”

NovaCina will continue to manufacture sterile injectable drug products for all phases of clinical trials from development to full scale commercial production for former Pfizer clients and for Pfizer under a master services agreement.

Bridgewest Perth Pharma will oversee and support NovaCina and what the company says are “future investments that broaden and vertically integrate world-class services and products in

the life sciences sector”.

Former Eli Lilly and Roche global pharmaceutical finance executive Marc Rivers has been appointed Bridgewest Perth Pharma President and CFO while Alderson will be Chief Operating Officer.

“This is an incredible industry to be in right now,” Rivers said.” The rate of innovation is amazing. I look forward to spearheading the company’s growth initiatives as we broaden and vertically integrate world-class services and products within our life sciences investments.”

Dr Tayebi said since Bridgewest took over BioCina in 2020, it had grown by 30 per cent. Bridgewest also owns another CDMO, BioDuro-Sundia based in China and the US, while BioOra is a partnership between Bridgewest Ventures and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research in New Zealand.



*Bridgewest Perth Pharma
President Marc Rivers*

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