



BioSouth holds first residential training course on biomanufacturing for Singaporean scientists

The two-week residential course held in Christchurch provided essential learning opportunities to help participants overcome the challenges of microbial scale-up and downstream processing at commercial scale.

BioSouth held its first residential training course in October and November for a group of twelve scientists from Singapore's leading universities and A*Star, Singapore's agency for science, technology and applied research.

Over two intensive weeks of classroom learning combined with hands-on practical experience, the scientists gained essential tools and techniques for taking a microbial product from benchtop to commercial scale production.

There was considerable focus on downstream processing, encompassing everything from filtration to separation and drying technologies. For most of the participants it was the first time they had engaged with processing equipment on the factory floor.



Technical Director, John Mead, working with the course participants in BioSouth's training facility.



Above: The practicalities of designing and building large fermenters for industrial-scale production: a visit to MHM Automation in Christchurch.

Left: Course participants learning about filtration technologies at FoodSouth.



BioSouth's first Open Day attracts public keen to learn about capabilities and plans for growth

The completion of BioSouth's Technology and Training Centre in Christchurch was ushered in with an Open Day for interested members of the public to see the new development.

It was a very successful Open Day, attracting industry specialists, academics and representatives from government agencies keen to see BioSouth's new production and training facility.

Many thanks go to the continued support received from Sartorius. The contribution of leading-edge microbial fermentation equipment made the day even more interesting for those that were there. All came away with a much better understanding of BioSouth's operation in Wigram, Christchurch.



BioSouth wins prestigious "CMO Startup of the Year" award in Singapore

In September BioSouth's Technical Director, John Mead, was in Singapore to receive the "CMO Startup of the Year" award at the 3rd Biologics Contract Manufacturing Asia Conference.

The award was a result of voting from over 10,000 professionals in the biologics, cell and gene therapy and vaccine community in the Asia Pacific region.

"It was a validation of all the work that the team has done in the last two years to build a contract manufacturing operation in New Zealand" said John Mead.



The possibility of an end to New Zealand's gene tech ban welcomed by Biotech companies

In August the New Zealand government announced its commitment to end to the country's 30-year ban on gene technology outside the lab.

This news was welcomed by BioSouth as it will lead to a significant increase in biotechnology research and development in New Zealand, something which has been severely limited by the existing legislation.

Science, Innovation and Technology Minister Judith Collins has communicated her intent to appoint a dedicated regulator to oversee applications to use gene technology. This will require changes in legislation which the minister hopes to introduce to Parliament by the end of 2024.

In a press release from the government minister Collins stated that the changes her government is looking to introduce will allow researchers and companies to further develop and commercialise their innovative products.

“Restrictive rules and time-consuming processes have made research outside the lab almost impossible, resulting in New Zealand falling behind. These changes will bring New Zealand up to global best practice to ensure we can capitalise on the benefits” said Minister Collins.

More information is available on the MBIE website.



New Zealand's
Science, Innovation and
Technology Minister,
Judith Collins.



Upcoming Events in 2025

Life Sciences Summit

18-19 March 2025, Wellington, NZ

ALTA – Innovation in Mining & Metallurgical Processing

19-22 May 2025, Perth, Western Australia

ABIM 2025 – Annual BioControl Industry Meeting

20-22 October 2025, Basel, Switzerland

Microbial Solutions for a Changing World

25-27 November 2025, Melbourne, Australia