

The unveiling of The Discovery Centre – Official unveiling speeches

[UNVEILING CEREMONY]

Leif Johansson, Chairman, AstraZeneca

Your Royal Highness, Secretaries of State, Ministers, Ambassadors, Excellencies, esteemed guests and colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to celebrate this important milestone for AstraZeneca.

Thank you for joining us.

I am the very proud, Swedish Chairman of AstraZeneca, an Anglo-Swedish company. Our new Discovery Centre will build on our heritage as a company delivering world-leading scientific research in both countries and globally.

Today, you will hear how we have transformed our research and development capabilities for the benefit of patients, and how this state-of-the-art R&D facility will contribute to the next chapter of our growth story.

Alongside our two other global R&D hubs, in Gothenburg, Sweden, and in Gaithersburg in the United States, The Discovery Centre will help us continue to push the boundaries of science to deliver life changing medicines for people who need them most.

And the need for fast, agile development of medicines is greater than ever, as society comes to terms with the impact of the pandemic.

In the face of this global crisis, AstraZeneca harnessed and shared our scientific knowledge and expertise, to advance and accelerate the development of critical therapeutics and a vaccine for the world.

The pandemic continues to highlight how the life science ecosystem requires continuous investment – from companies like ours, from government, and from broader society – to ensure we build resilience to respond to future events and realise benefits for those in need of new treatment options around the world.

At this critical time, we must also be increasingly mindful of the impact mankind itself is having on the planet.

Your Royal Highness, on this issue, we are all grateful for your leadership.

More than 25 years ago, as Chief Executive of Electrolux, I had the privilege of being part of one of the very first environmental groups for industry, which was established by His Royal Highness.

I was inspired then by the foresight you showed in convening the private sector to address our impact on the planet.

It is therefore our great pleasure, Sir, that you are able to join us to unveil this new Discovery Centre, which raises the standard for sustainable research and development within the healthcare sector.

Thank you, and thank you to everyone for joining us today.

I am now delighted to invite the Right Honourable Kwasi Kwarteng, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to the podium.

Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive Officer, AstraZeneca

Thank you Secretary of State, for your kind words and your support for the ambitions of our sector.

Your Royal Highness, Secretaries of State, Ministers, Ambassadors, Excellencies, esteemed guests and colleagues,

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this special day in our company's history. Today marks the culmination of many years of investment that has seen a transformation in our research and development capabilities.

The first of our company values is "we follow the science". The Discovery Centre (The DISC in short) highlights this commitment to invest in great science, recruit very talented scientists and give them access to the best research tools and technologies to discover and develop medicines that change the practice of medicine.

Over the last few years, our R&D productivity has increased and in the last quarter alone, our pipeline delivered 8 positive Phase III trials across many diseases, the great majority of them representing important clinical advances.

The Discovery Centre will enable us to continue building our pipeline. It is part of Europe's largest biomedical cluster, will be home to 2,200 of our research scientists, and, as our Chairman noted, it is our third major research and development hub within our extensive global research network.

Around us, we have the MRC's Laboratory of Molecular Biology and the Institute of metabolic science, Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Institute, the National Heart and Lung Research Institute, world-class hospitals – Addenbrookes and the Royal Papworth, the University of Cambridge and hundreds of other academic institutions and biotechnology companies.

We have designed a centre that fosters collaboration through an open and porous design. And our address is a great reflection of the science surrounding us: 1 Francis

Crick Avenue . I want to share a short story about the history of this building. I came to Cambridge several years ago in search of a site where we could build our new R&D center. The team had selected 6 or 7 locations and I immediately concluded this site was where we wanted to be.

I had to pinch myself to not show my excitement to the real estate agent. I asked the team to quickly try to obtain the number 1 at this Francis Crick avenue which they managed to get. I then called my friends at Genentech in San Francisco whose address is 1 DNA Way and told them that we had a better address!

We also designed the Discovery Center with sustainability in mind from the beginning. The disc-like structure is a feat of environmental engineering equipped with 174 boreholes to provide natural geothermal energy; four 'hybrid cooling towers' and a ground source heat pump that will save enough energy to power 2,500 homes.

This environmental consideration is part of our wider 'Ambition Zero Carbon' strategy – we have a commitment to be carbon neutral from our own operations by 2025 and carbon negative across our entire value chain by 2030.

With that, we were delighted to receive the Terra Carta Seal Award from Your Royal Highness' Sustainable Markets Initiative just a few weeks ago at COP26 in Glasgow. An award for companies leading their respective industries on sustainability.. I would like to thank all the team members involved in building the Discovery Centre, and in particular the architects at Herzog de Meuron, for the outstanding work they have done designing this building.

Sir,

I now kindly ask you to say a few words and then invite you to officially unveil AstraZeneca's new Discovery Centre.