

Edwards Lifesciences, a global leader specialising in artificial heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring, has watched its Singapore plant grow from strength to strength



Edwards Lifesciences Singapore has a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Changi North Crescent.
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PATIENT-FOCUSED CULTURE

BY MICHELLE CHIN
SPH CONTENT LAB

When we get better after suffering from serious medical conditions, we are grateful to the medical team and people nearest and dearest to us such as our families.

The invisible help we benefit from — in the form of advanced medical devices and innovation — often goes unnoticed.

Have you wondered how and where cutting-edge medical devices are made? Did you know Singapore is home to several leading medical device manufacturers?

Growing from strength to strength

Edwards Lifesciences, a company with a patient-focused culture, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, and traces its roots to the United States, where it was established in 1958.

Its Singapore heart valve manufacturing operations commenced in 2005, and the local plant also celebrates its 13th anniversary this year.

In 2005, there were less than 100 Edwards Lifesciences Singapore (ELS) staff members working in the rented premises at Techview.

In 2008, ELS built a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Changi North Crescent and subsequently doubled its expansion in 2013.

Over a decade, there was an average 20 per cent headcount growth year-on-year, and its Singapore operations now boast more than 2,100 staff members.

Learning from difficulties

Success comes with its own challenges that ELS had to overcome to attain its current status.

Mr Rainer Wolf, the vice president and plant general manager at ELS, says: “One of the key challenges is to attract, train and certify capable talents for the Associate Heart Valve Specialists to support our manufacturing operations.

“Besides assimilating the new hires into the company’s patient-focused culture, there is great emphasis to uphold the highest quality standards at all times.

“By collaborating with Employment & Employability Institute (e2i) and Chemical Industries Employees’ Union (CIEU), ELS developed the ‘Readiness Training Camp’, which was a first of its kind for the local medtech industry to attract and prepare interested jobseekers.”

Mr Wolf adds that in order to cater to more than 1,000 additional employees in the extended manufacturing facility, the company also enhanced employees’ welfare by investing more than \$6 million to transform its social areas, such as additional amenities and a brand new cafeteria.

Looking into the future

The company is expanding its operations and seeking applicants who are keen and passionate to pursue a purposeful career.

Mr Wolf says: “We will continue to invest heavily in state-of-the-art technologies and expand in vertically integrated processes to manufacture heart valves as well as heart valve repair systems.

“We are well-prepared for the future — with the addition of highly educated and specialised staff over the recent years, we will embark on the transfers of new product lines to treat cardiovascular disease. Edwards Lifesciences is committed to invest in the training and development of all staff.”

Work at ELS is meaningful and every effort is aimed at improving the quality of life of people with cardiovascular disease.

Other than helping patients, ELS aims to be one of the leading established employers in the local medical device manufacturing industry.

Good staff benefits, as well as recognition and reward initiatives, also spur excellent work performances.

Visit www.DiscoverEdwardsSG.com for more information.



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MR RAINER WOLF
vice president and
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