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SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR END-TO-END DRUG DELIVERY DEVICE SOLUTIONS

In this article, Barbara Lead, Chief Executive Officer of Cambridge Pharma and Oval Medical Technologies, outlines the sustainability efforts undertaken by SMC Group associated companies, including facilitating the transition from hospital to at-home treatment and investment in greener facilities.

At the 2021 COP26 summit in Glasgow, further cuts to carbon dioxide emissions were agreed to accelerate action on climate change over the course of this decade. The aim is to keep the average global temperature increase to less than 1.5°C, as recommended by scientists to prevent a climate catastrophe. Beyond legislative requirements, businesses must innovate and act smartly to support this objective.

The SMC Group, comprised of Oval Medical Technologies, SMC Ltd and Cambridge Pharma, is mindful of this. SMC Group provides an end-to-end solution for sterile injection devices, including autoinjectors. This end-to-end solution includes customisation of the appropriate device platform to meet the specific user requirements, component manufacture, filling of the primary drug container, and assembly and integration to produce the final device. In addition, process development from laboratory scale to clinical scale can be provided, as well

as quality control and stability testing. Further process development, scale up and technology transfer to commercial quantities can be provided for product launches.

In the provision of this end-to-end solution, the Group's sustainability strategy has four key components:

1. Replace high carbon footprint plastics with lower carbon footprint alternatives
2. Develop autoinjectors that facilitate at-home treatments that reduce the need for patient travel and day care hospital beds
3. Cambridge Pharma uses dynamic heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, which reduce energy usage, and green energy suppliers
4. Cambridge Pharma offers pharmaceutical development services in the UK, enabling customers to reduce transport miles in their supply chains.

The aim of SMC Group's strategy to minimise the carbon footprint of its facilities and products is to, in turn, reduce the carbon footprint associated with drug delivery. SMC Group seeks to achieve this not only through device manufacture but also by delivering innovations that enable the reduction of the carbon footprint associated with patients' treatments. To realise the goal of providing an end-to-end solution while minimising the carbon footprint of the final drug-device combination, it is necessary to perform an analysis of the value chain and trends in patient treatments.

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