



PFIZER • cont'd from page 1

decided to consolidate production in Canada, the United States and Indonesia.

Sixty-five km by road from Ottawa, the Arnprior plant manufactures both prescription drugs and over-the-counter products such as Visine™. The prescription line includes Zoloft™, an antidepressant, and Norvasc™ for angina and high blood pressure.

In an interview with *Canada Investment News*, Randell Ritchie, Manager of Manufacturing Operations at Arnprior, says that in the competition for the mandate, the plant benefitted from its outstanding record in productivity and overall efficiency.

Zero labour turnover

Listing the locational advantages underlying the track record, Ritchie mentions:

- A highly skilled workforce recruited from nearby cities including the National Capital Region of Ottawa-Hull, with its four universities and three community colleges.
- Labour force stability — an advantage that Ritchie says stems from a quality of life that people find hard to walk away from. Arnprior (population 7,000) combines small-town stability with easy access to larger urban centres. Canada's

Pfizer's latest investment covers expansion of the plant, installation of new production machinery and computerized information systems, and training facilities.

National Capital Region is 40 minutes away; cosmopolitan Montreal another hour and half. On both sides of the Ottawa River are skiing and summer vacation playgrounds in Ontario and Quebec.

"I have a turnover rate here of zero" says Ritchie. "Zero. I mean that literally. Nobody leaves."

Another competitive edge is convenient air and sea linkage to world markets via Montreal, approximately 200 km by road and rail from the plant gate.

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The expansion has resulted in a doubling of the workforce to 120 people and Ritchie expects further increases to result from the new mandate.

Pfizer, a global health care company founded in 1849, has its headquarters in New York. In 1996 the company spent \$36 million on research and development in Canada. ♦

Shell Chemicals building world-scale

in

Alberta

ethylene glycol plant

Shell Chemicals Canada Ltd. of Calgary is spending \$300 to \$400 million to build an ethylene glycol plant near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, in partnership with Mitsubishi Chemicals of Japan.

The facility will help Shell Chemicals stay abreast of world demand for ethylene glycol that has been racing ahead at six per cent per annum in recent years. The substance is used in the manufacture of polyester fibres, resins and antifreeze.

Announcing the start of the project's engineering design phase, John Wills, President and CEO of Shell Chemicals, said the plant would be "a world-scale facility" that would complement Shell's global ethylene glycol manufacturing capability.

Scheduled for start-up in the year 2000, the plant will be located at the company's existing Scotford manufacturing site outside Fort Saskatchewan and will produce 400,000 tonnes of ethylene glycol annually. The plant will have a permanent workforce of 20 to 40 people and employ 250 during the construction period.

Shell Chemicals said the plant will serve the North American and Pacific Rim markets, and timed the project start-up to meet increasing demand from customers in these regions. ♦