

Many job openings in Abbott's new plant

Abbott Manufacturing plans to double its staff strength when its \$450m plant starts operations

By Narendra Aggarwal

THERE are over 100 job openings in Abbott's new \$450 million Singapore plant, which is nearing completion.

Abbott offers good career prospects, as its state-of-the-art nutritional plant here prepares to go into commercial production later this year.

Abbott, whose tagline is "A Promise for Life", is a global broad-based healthcare company devoted to discovering new medicines, new technologies and new ways to manage health.

Its products range from nutritional products and laboratory diagnostics to medical devices and pharmaceutical therapies.

The company employs 68,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries. It achieved worldwide sales of \$39 billion last year.

LOCAL PRESENCE

Abbott's new plant in the Tuas Biomedical Park is the United States-based company's first major capital investment in Asia and its largest nutritional investment ever.

It is also the largest investment in a nutritional plant in Singapore to-date by any one company.

The Singapore plant will make a wide range of infant nutritional

products like Similac Advance, PediaSure, Gain and Grow to supply Abbott's fast-growing markets in Asia.

Mr Pat Cooper, 47, is the Site Director for Abbott's Singapore facility. He says that as a start-up, the plant will need people in roles ranging from professional and management to technical, maintenance and operations.

The company hopes to fill these openings from candidates with scientific, engineering or business qualifications, particularly those with entrepreneurial spirit, a "can-do" attitude and those interested in adding international experience to their background.

EXPANDING MANPOWER

There are currently 160 employees, and the company plans to double its staff numbers by 2010.

Specifically, Abbott is looking for laboratory, operations and engineering staff in addition to financial professionals.

One of the reasons Abbott chose to build the plant in Singapore, says Mr Cooper, is because of the highly motivated and educated workforce.

So he and his hiring team are interested in meeting candidates from different backgrounds and experience levels, including recent graduates.

As the new Singapore plant



Job opportunities at Abbott range from professional and management to technical, maintenance and operations.

is a greenfield project, process development and fine-tuning of processes are also areas that offer good job prospects for those looking for challenges in a new plant.

SUCCESS STORY

National University of Singapore graduate Yik Yin Fun (below, centre) was attracted by the opportunity to combine her research interest with a management role in Abbott's new plant.

The Quality Assurance Director, who was the first local employee of Abbott Manufacturing when she joined the company 15 months ago, now leads a team of 60 staff members.

Ms Yik, 40, graduated with a Master of Science degree in

chemistry in 1994 and started off as a chemist.

She gained valuable experience working in laboratories and quality line at other multinational corporations here before being picked by Abbott in November 2006 to join its pioneer leadership team to support the start-up of the new plant.

"Joining Abbott, I knew I could grow my career by adding management responsibilities while keeping a technical role," she says.

Ms Yik is in charge of quality assurance operations, which include chemistry and microbiology testing laboratories, incoming inspection, quality systems, validation and compliance responsibilities.

As a manager helping to

recruit new staff, she highlights Abbott's focus on caring for staff and providing them flexibility to achieve a better work-life balance.

"Abbott's flexible approach allows me to take care of my family needs when required, and I make up by putting in the extra effort and time for the company when my work requires me to," she says.

Hot jobs at Abbott

- Engineer
- Operations Supervisor
- Chemist
- Microbiologist
- Accountant

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