

## Vineland facility to be major beneficiary of Corning's multibillion-dollar pharma glass partnership

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**Corning Inc.** is investing \$500 million and creating 1,000 jobs at facilities including **Vineland** as part of a \$4 billion, 4,000-job initiative in partnership with **Merck & Co.** and **Pfizer Inc.**, according to company statements and **multiple published reports**.

The glass maker and two area drugmakers made an announcement as part of the White House's "Made in America" week, saying they are

committed to an upgrade of pharmaceutical packaging through the introduction of Corning's Valor Glass product. Valor Glass is designed to enhance storage and delivery of pharmaceutical products, the companies said.

"Making this next-generation product requires a new, advanced manufacturing platform, and we plan to build that platform right here in the United States," Corning Chairman, CEO and President Wendell P. Weeks said in a prepared statement. "All of this is made possible by our great customers like Merck and Pfizer, and the strong support of the (presidential) administration, the Office of American Innovation and the FDA's Emerging Technology Team. We believe this is great news for patients, for the industry and for the economy."

A report on **NorthJersey.com** said the initial 1,000 jobs would be spread among the Vineland plant, a facility near Corning's headquarters and a plant to be built in the Southeast.

Merck is based in Kenilworth, while Pfizer is based in New York City and Corning in Corning, New York.

"Merck is proud to have participated from its inception in the development of Valor Glass with Corning," Chairman and CEO Kenneth C. Frazier said in a statement. "Biologics today are on the leading edge of scientific innovation, and Valor Glass represents a similar advancement in materials science: glass that is purpose-built for medicines and vaccines. Merck plans to convert several injectable products to this exceptional new glass packaging solution, pending appropriate regulatory approvals."

The collaboration, aimed at packaging solutions for injectable drugs in vials and cartridges, will include manufacturing process insights from the pharma giants, with Corning contributing its glass science and forming knowledge.

"We joined forces with Corning to advance this revolutionary new glass for medicines that are critical to patients," Pfizer Chairman and CEO Ian C. Read said in a statement. "Our initial trial results with Valor Glass show promise, and we are working with Corning to assess the full potential of this glass solution on products at several of our manufacturing sites."

The **White House** said 98 percent of the \$4 billion pharmaceutical packaging industry is located overseas.

"My administration is committed to streamlining the regulatory process so that it's easier for companies to invest and innovate here in America," President Donald Trump said at the announcement of the partnership. "Today, I'm pleased to recognize Merck, Pfizer and Corning for collaborating to modernize pharmaceutical glass packaging with Valor Glass, and bring important manufacturing jobs to the United States."

Vineland Mayor Anthony Fanucci said the expansion will add new jobs in Vineland and strengthen its manufacturing industry.

"This is a great announcement for Corning and the city of Vineland," Fanucci said. "We have worked very hard to be a good partner since Corning acquired their Vineland facility in 2015. Expansion decisions are only made after careful and thoughtful consideration, and we are excited and thankful that Corning is reinforcing its commitment and belief in our community."

"This expansion will add to our tax base, provide new jobs, and strengthen Vineland's important scientific glass manufacturing sector. The announcement also sends a strong message to the international business community that our municipal government works together and that Vineland can meet the needs of any company in the world."