

AstraZeneca takeover would benefit science: Pfizer



London, May 7: Pfizer sought to allay fears that its proposed \$106-billion takeover of AstraZeneca would deal a blow to drug research, saying the new company would bolster innovative science and speed the development of new treatments.

As political opposition to the plan grew, Pfizer reiterated its commitment to the deal, posting a graphic on its website that touted the benefits of a merger. It said the combined group would be able to expand its global research, speed up the development of treatments and broaden its footprint in emerging markets. A combined Pfizer-AstraZeneca would be the world's largest pharmaceuticals business and save Pfizer billions of dollars in taxes by shifting its domicile to Britain.

But British Prime Minister David Cameron is facing growing pressure from lawmakers to secure promises about jobs, research and intellectual property. On Tuesday, business secretary Vince Cable said the government could use its public interest powers to intervene in the deal. *Reuters*

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