



A series of firsts

INZIGN'S new plant — to build a “revolutionary drug delivery device” — marks its first foray into the biomedical device sector. Previously, the firm made parts and components for medical devices.

This device is the first complete product that Inzign will make and the deal is its first tie-up with a pharmaceutical firm.

Inzign to build biotech plant

By RACHEL CHANG

LOCAL precision engineering firm Inzign will build a multi-million-dollar biotechnology facility here, the company announced last week.

It has obtained \$7 million in funds from venture capital firms Jafco Investment and Rothschild Ventures Asia, with the “majority” of the funds to go towards building and running the state-of-the-art facility. The rest will help fund Inzign's expansion in Batam.

The manufacturing plant will make what the firm calls a “revolutionary drug delivery device” to fulfil a contract for

a “leading international pharmaceutical” company. It declined to name both the company and the device.

As part of the \$150 million long-term contract, Inzign will invest in the production and technological capability to support the launch of the device in the United States. The device is already a top seller in Europe.

The plant marks Inzign's first foray into the biomedical device sector. Previously, the 24-year-old home-grown firm made parts and components for medical devices.

This device is the first complete product that Inzign will manufacture. The deal also represents its first tie-up with

a pharmaceutical company.

“This project will be the catalyst to transform Inzign into an internationally reputable contract manufacturer for the biomedical industry,” said director John Tan. “We hope that our track record from this project will allow us to go out and market ourselves to other pharmaceuticals” looking to outsource.

Inzign has applied to the Economic Development Board for pioneer status, as the firm is the first to manufacture this device in Singapore. If granted, the status would mean tax breaks for five to 10 years. The plant will start commercial production in the fourth quarter.