# UK Biotech Company EyeBio Sold to Merck for Initial £1 Billion



Dame Kate Bingham's biotech company, EyeBio, has been acquired by American pharmaceutical giant Merck for an initial £1 billion, with an additional £1.36 billion contingent on the company meeting certain targets, bringing the potential total to £2.4 billion. EyeBio, co-founded by Bingham along with scientists David Guyer and Anthony Adamis, focuses on developing treatments for major eye diseases affecting over 200 million people globally.

Dame Kate Bingham previously led the UK's Covid vaccine task force in early 2020 and is currently the chairman of EyeBio. She sees the acquisition as a significant endorsement of the UK biotech sector and believes the developed drug has the potential to become a multibillion-dollar therapy, marking it as a transformative healthcare innovation.

Merck has a history of substantial acquisitions, having purchased Prometheus Biosciences for approximately £8.6 billion last year. This latest acquisition continues Merck's strategy to strengthen its biotech portfolio ahead of anticipated competitive pressures on its bestselling cancer therapy, Keytruda, by 2028. EyeBio's primary asset is Restoret, an experimental antibody in early-stage trials designed to treat conditions such as neovascular age-related macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease.