

# Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Size and Forecast (2021 - 2031)

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## Abstracts

The Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market is projected to grow significantly, reaching approximately US\$ 18,861.6 million by 2031, up from US\$ 8,637.1 million in 2023, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.3% from 2023 to 2031.

## Executive Summary and Market Analysis

The small molecule drug discovery market in the Asia Pacific region is divided into several key countries: India, China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and the Rest of Asia Pacific. Factors driving the growth of this market include advancements in technology, increased collaborations in genomic research between Asian and Western nations, reduced costs of DNA sequencing, and a rising incidence of genetic and other target diseases. The market is also expected to benefit from the growing GDP, which is enhancing the pharmaceutical sector, alongside increasing disposable incomes that are facilitating the adoption of advanced healthcare solutions. These elements indicate a substantial potential for growth in the small molecule drug discovery market.

## Strategic Insights

### Market Segmentation Analysis

By Therapeutic Area: The market is categorized into Oncology, Central Nervous System, Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Orthopedics, Immunology, Rare Diseases, and Other Therapeutic Areas, with Oncology holding the largest market share in 2023.

By Process or Phase: The market is segmented into Target Discovery, Target Validation, Lead Generation and Refinement, and Preclinical Development, where Lead Generation and Refinement dominated in 2023.

## Market Outlook

In recent years, the pharmaceutical industry has seen a surge in outsourcing services, driven by factors such as the increasing use of small molecules, the complexity of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and the need to lower development costs. Major pharmaceutical companies are outsourcing research and development (R&D) activities to accelerate drug development and reduce costs. This trend is further supported by the rising complexity in developing new molecular entities (NMEs), which necessitates specialized capabilities that pharmaceutical firms prefer to outsource. The demand for outsourcing is expected to grow as new drug approvals increase, and the clinical development pipeline remains robust. Biotechnology companies are leveraging contract research organizations (CROs) to enhance their small molecule pipelines, and this trend is anticipated to strengthen in the coming years.

CROs provide essential services such as product development, clinical trial support, manufacturing, and commercialization on a contract basis, allowing small molecule drug companies to scale operations and access technical expertise without incurring high overhead costs. This partnership enhances speed to market and cost efficiency, particularly for biologics manufacturers, thereby driving growth in the small molecule drug delivery market.

## Country Insights

The Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market is further analyzed by country, with China holding the largest market share in 2023. As China transitions from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-oriented one, the emphasis on innovation has intensified. The growing population has increased the demand for efficient and cost-effective healthcare solutions. The life sciences and healthcare sectors in China are experiencing robust growth, supported by active mergers and acquisitions among both domestic and international players.

Financial investments from both private and government sectors are expected to further propel the market. China has become an attractive destination for R&D outsourcing, enabling international pharmaceutical companies to reduce product timelines and costs.

For instance, the number of clinical trials conducted in China has risen significantly, from around 100 trials per year in 2010 to approximately 350 trials in 2021. This focus on R&D and the expedited clinical trial process are key drivers of market growth in China.

### **Company Profiles**

Key players in the Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market include GSK Plc, Charles River Laboratories International Inc., Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Merck KGaA, ICON Plc, Revvity Inc., Danaher Corp, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., and Oncodesign Services. These companies are employing various strategies such as expansion, product innovation, and mergers and acquisitions to enhance their market presence and offer innovative solutions to consumers.

## Contents

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Report Guidance
- 1.2 Market Segmentation

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Key Insights
- 2.2 Market Attractiveness

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Secondary Research
- 3.2 Primary Research
  - 3.2.1 Hypothesis formulation:
  - 3.2.2 Macroeconomic factor analysis:
  - 3.2.3 Developing base number:
  - 3.2.4 Data Triangulation:
  - 3.2.5 Country-level data:

### **4. ASIA PACIFIC SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DISCOVERY MARKET - KEY MARKET DYNAMICS**

- 4.1 Market Drivers
- 4.2 Market Restraints
- 4.3 Market Opportunities
- 4.4 Future Trends
- 4.5 Impact of Drivers and Restraints:

### **5. SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DISCOVERY MARKET - ASIA PACIFIC MARKET ANALYSIS**

- 5.1 Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Revenue (US\$ Million), 2023 - 2031
- 5.2 Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Forecast and Analysis

### **6. ASIA PACIFIC SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DISCOVERY MARKET REVENUE**

## **ANALYSIS - BY THERAPEUTIC AREA**

### 6.1 Oncology

#### 6.1.1 Overview

6.1.2 Oncology: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.2 Central Nervous System

#### 6.2.1 Overview

6.2.2 Central Nervous System: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.3 Cardiovascular

#### 6.3.1 Overview

6.3.2 Cardiovascular: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.4 Respiratory

#### 6.4.1 Overview

6.4.2 Respiratory: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.5 Orthopedics

#### 6.5.1 Overview

6.5.2 Orthopedics: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.6 Immunology

#### 6.6.1 Overview

6.6.2 Immunology: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.7 Rare Diseases

#### 6.6.1 Overview

6.6.2 Rare Diseases: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

### 6.8 Other Therapeutic Areas

#### 6.8.1 Overview

6.8.2 Other Therapeutic Areas: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

## **7. ASIA PACIFIC SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DISCOVERY MARKET REVENUE ANALYSIS - BY PROCESS OR PHASE**

### 7.1 Target Discovery

### 7.1.1 Overview

7.1.2 Target Discovery: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

## 7.2 Target Validation

### 7.2.1 Overview

7.2.2 Target Validation: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

## 7.3 Lead Generation and Refinement

### 7.3.1 Overview

7.3.2 Lead Generation and Refinement: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

## 7.4 Preclinical Development

### 7.4.1 Overview

7.4.2 Preclinical Development: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

## **8. ASIA PACIFIC SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DISCOVERY MARKET - COUNTRY ANALYSIS**

### 8.1 Asia Pacific

8.1.1 Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Revenue and Forecast and Analysis - by Country

8.1.1.1 Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Revenue and Forecast and Analysis - by Country

8.1.2.2 Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.1.2.2.1 Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Therapeutic Area

8.1.2.2.2 Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

8.2.3.3 China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.2.3.3.1 China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Therapeutic Area

8.2.3.3.2 China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

8.3.4.4 India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.3.4.4.1 India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by

## Therapeutic Area

8.3.4.4.2 India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

8.4.5.5 South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.4.5.5.1 South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Therapeutic Area

8.4.5.5.2 South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

8.5.6.6 Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.5.6.6.1 Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Therapeutic Area

8.5.6.6.2 Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

8.6.7.7 Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

8.6.7.7.1 Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Therapeutic Area

8.6.7.7.2 Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share - by Process Or Phase

## **9 INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE**

### 9.1 Overview

## **10 COMPANY PROFILES**

### 10.1 GSK Plc

10.1.1 Key Facts

10.1.2 Business Description

10.1.3 Products and Services

10.1.4 Financial Overview

10.1.5 SWOT Analysis

10.1.6 Key Developments

### 10.2 Charles River Laboratories International Inc

10.2.1 Key Facts

10.2.2 Business Description

10.2.3 Products and Services

- 10.2.4 Financial Overview
- 10.2.5 SWOT Analysis
- 10.2.6 Key Developments
- 10.3 Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH
  - 10.3.1 Key Facts
  - 10.3.2 Business Description
  - 10.3.3 Products and Services
  - 10.3.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.3.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.3.6 Key Developments
- 10.4 Bristol-Myers Squibb Co
  - 10.4.1 Key Facts
  - 10.4.2 Business Description
  - 10.4.3 Products and Services
  - 10.4.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.4.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.4.6 Key Developments
- 10.5 Merck KGaA
  - 10.5.1 Key Facts
  - 10.5.2 Business Description
  - 10.5.3 Products and Services
  - 10.5.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.5.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.5.6 Key Developments
- 10.6 ICON Plc
  - 10.6.1 Key Facts
  - 10.6.2 Business Description
  - 10.6.3 Products and Services
  - 10.6.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.6.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.6.6 Key Developments
- 10.7 Revvity Inc
  - 10.7.1 Key Facts
  - 10.7.2 Business Description
  - 10.7.3 Products and Services
  - 10.7.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.7.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.7.6 Key Developments
- 10.8 Danaher Corp

- 10.8.1 Key Facts
- 10.8.2 Business Description
- 10.8.3 Products and Services
- 10.8.4 Financial Overview
- 10.8.5 SWOT Analysis
- 10.8.6 Key Developments
- 10.9 Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
  - 10.9.1 Key Facts
  - 10.9.2 Business Description
  - 10.9.3 Products and Services
  - 10.9.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.9.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.9.6 Key Developments
- 10.10 Oncodesign Services
  - 10.10.1 Key Facts
  - 10.10.2 Business Description
  - 10.10.3 Products and Services
  - 10.10.4 Financial Overview
  - 10.10.5 SWOT Analysis
  - 10.10.6 Key Developments

## **11. APPENDIX**

- 11.1 About The Insight Partners

## List Of Tables

### LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Segmentation
- Table 3. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)
- Table 4. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 5. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 6. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Country
- Table 7. Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 8. Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 9. China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 10. China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 11. India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 12. India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 13. South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 14. South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 15. Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 16. Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 17. Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Therapeutic Area
- Table 18. Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million) - by Process Or Phase
- Table 19. Heat Map Analysis by Key Players

## List Of Figures

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Segmentation - Country

Figure 4. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Key Market Dynamics

Figure 5. Impact Analysis of Drivers and Restraints

Figure 6. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Revenue (US\$ Million), 2023 - 2031

Figure 7. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share (%) - by Therapeutic Area, 2023 and 2031

Figure 8. Oncology: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 9. Central Nervous System: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 10. Cardiovascular: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 11. Respiratory: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 12. Orthopedics: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 13. Immunology: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 14. Rare Diseases: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 15. Other Therapeutic Areas: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 16. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Share (%) - by Process Or Phase, 2023 and 2031

Figure 17. Target Discovery: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 18. Target Validation: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 19. Lead Generation and Refinement: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 20. Preclinical Development: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 21. Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market Breakdown by Key Countries, 2023 and 2031 (%)

Figure 22. Japan: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 23. China: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 24. India: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 25. South Korea: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 26. Australia: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 27. Rest of APAC: Asia Pacific Small Molecule Drug Discovery Market - Revenue and Forecast, 2021 - 2031 (US\$ Million)

Figure 28. Company Positioning & Concentration

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