

Scottish Mortgage Stock Stories – Solugen

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Claire Shaw

Though vital, the chemicals industry is dirty, so the growth potential for a company working towards decarbonisation of the sector is huge

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Clare Shaw: The chemicals market is colossal. It is an industry worth 6 trillion dollars and has immense economic and societal value. But it's also one of the dirtiest industries responsible for 30 per cent of total global emissions. How can a market so immense - and so intrinsic to our day-to-day life - change radically, without everything grinding to a halt?

Enter Solugen. A synthetic biology company whose mission is to decarbonise the chemicals industry. In other words, it wants to make all the materials and chemicals you interact with every day - the plastics in your phone, the chemicals that treated the water you drank this morning - they want to make these in a carbon neutral or carbon negative way. To do this, they have brought the best of biology and technology together to design a new process to create cleaner chemicals; one that will reduce the reliance on non-renewable resources and energy intensive production processes.

So who is behind this company that is seeking to radically transform the chemicals industry? The founding story of Solugen involved having a team of scientists, engineers, doctors, innovators, Nobel Prize winners in the same room and asking how could they take their collective experience and create something new? How could they bring sustainable chemistry to every industry and every aspect of modern life? This fusion of disciplines led Solugen to discover that you can change the way chemicals are made - one that uses bio-based inputs instead of fossil fuels.

So, by using the best of synthetic biology and the best of traditional chemical manufacturing, Solugen produces chemicals with much better yields, costs and crucially, lower environmental footprints - no toxins, no waste. By leveraging biology, Solugen are delivering carbon negative solutions to those heavy industries that underpin our global economy. With products already available and a versatile technology in an enormous market, the scope for growth sees huge potential.

Solugen's process is complex and the expertise they have built up will be hard for others to replicate.

So yes, the chemicals market is colossal. In scale, in worth and in climate cost. But it is innovation within this industry that can drive real progress. Solugen's technology is proving itself to be a viable solution worth pursuing. Catalysing a cleaner future.

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