



Media Release

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Sandoz enters into marketing and distribution agreement with LNK International for generic Zyrtec® products

Princeton, New Jersey; May 22, 2008 -- Sandoz announced today a supply agreement with LNK International whereby LNK will market and distribute cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride, cetirizine hydrochloride tablets and cetirizine hydrochloride chewable tablets in retailers' own store brand packaging.

The marketing and distribution agreement will enable Sandoz and LNK to offer retailers a complete oral solid line of generic Zyrtec® products in store brand packaging.

Cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride is a generic version of Zyrtec-D®. Available in 5 mg/20 mg strength tablets, this product is an antihistamine/decongestant combination available without prescription to patients aged 12 years and older for relief from indoor and outdoor allergy symptoms.

Cetirizine hydrochloride tablets for treatment of allergies and hives are a generic version of Zyrtec®. Cetirizine hydrochloride chewable tablets are a generic version of Children's Zyrtec®. These products are available in 5 mg and 10 mg strengths without prescription.

LNK International, based in Hauppauge, New York, is a supplier of various private label over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, including store brand allergy medications.

About Sandoz

Sandoz, a Division of the Novartis group, is a global leader in the field of generic pharmaceuticals, offering a wide array of high-quality, affordable products that are no longer protected by patents. Sandoz has a portfolio of more than 950 compounds and sells its products in more than 130 countries. Key product groups include antibiotics, treatments for central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal medicines, cardiovascular treatments and hormone therapies. Sandoz develops, produces and markets these medicines along with pharmaceutical and biotechnological active substances and anti-infectives. In addition to strong organic growth in recent years, Sandoz has made a series of acquisitions including Lek (Slovenia), Sabex (Canada), Hexal (Germany) and Eon Labs (US) In 2007, Sandoz employed around 23,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 7.2 billion

Disclaimer

The foregoing release may contain forward-looking statements regarding potential additional marketing approvals or future sales of cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and cetirizine hydrochloride. Any such forward looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results with cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and cetirizine hydrochloride to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and cetirizine hydrochloride will receive any additional marketing approvals in any other countries, or that it will reach any particular sales levels. Management's expectations regarding cetirizine hydrochloride/ pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and cetirizine hydrochloride could be affected by various risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Sandoz is providing this information as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this document as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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