



Media Release

Medienmitteilung

Communiqué aux Médias

Sandoz Inc.
506 Carnegie Center Drive,
Suite 400
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone +1 609 627 8500
Fax +1 609 627 8682
www.us.sandoz.com

Sandoz launches generic version of Prilosec®

Princeton, New Jersey; February 12, 2009 – Sandoz today announced the introduction of Omeprazole 40 mg capsules, a generic equivalent of Prilosec®, in the United States. Omeprazole is a proton pump inhibitor used to block the production of acid in the stomach and is indicated to treat conditions such as ulcers, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, which are all caused by stomach acid.

This announcement extends the Sandoz Omeprazole product line, which already includes Omeprazole 20 mg capsules. According to IMS Health, annual Omeprazole 40 mg US sales were approximately USD 225 million as of November 2008.

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 approximately 1000 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 2008, Sandoz employed around 23,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 7.6 billion.

Disclaimer

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as "may", "could", "likely", "suggests", "will", "risk", "confidence", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential future revenues from Omeprazole. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Company regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results with Omeprazole to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Omeprazole will receive any additional marketing approvals in any other countries or achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management's expectations regarding Omeprazole could be affected by, among other things, competition and other 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 the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

* * *

For further information

Novartis US Communications

Pamela McKinlay

(212) 830-2465

Sandoz Global Communications

Chris Lewis

+49 172 141 8749

Prilosec® is a registered trademark of AstraZeneca.