



Media Release

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Sandoz expands Wilson, North Carolina operations

Wilson, North Carolina; October 25, 2007 -- Sandoz, a leading generic pharmaceutical company, completed the major phase of its Wilson, North Carolina expansion when over 50 employees moved into a new 30,000 square foot building recently. The expansion is enabling the company's product development and quality control teams at the site to grow.

As a result of the \$10 million expansion, over 65 new jobs are expected to be created in Wilson. Many of the new jobs resulting from the expansion will be filled by pharmaceutical scientists and analytical chemists. Sandoz currently employs 412 people at the site.

"The new laboratories present an excellent workplace and opportunity for top scientists to help us continue our growth in the U.S.," said Bernhard Hampl, president and chief executive officer of Sandoz Inc. "The new products developed at the site will be the basis for the future growth of the Wilson site."

The growth of the company's product development team in Wilson will enable Sandoz to increase the number of new products it launches in the U.S. It will also allow the company's quality control team to expand its presence in the existing building. This is necessary as Sandoz increases production in Wilson. The company plans to produce almost four billion units at the site next year, almost double the volume it produced in 2005.

"We want to thank the Wilson Economic Development Council for arranging the financial support that will create new jobs at the site," said Michael Doelling, vice president of technical operations for the Sandoz site in Wilson.

In early 2008, the expansion of the Wilson site will be completed when the business development and licensing and human resources teams move into offices in the new building.

The Wilson site, constructed in 1994, was acquired in 2000 by Eon Labs. Novartis acquired Eon Labs in 2005 and integrated the Wilson site into its Sandoz generic pharmaceuticals operations.



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 840 compounds in over 5,000 forms worldwide and sells its products in more than 110 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 drugs along with pharmaceutical and biotechnological active substances and anti-infectives. In addition to the strong organic growth in recent years, Sandoz has made a series of acquisitions including Lek (Slovenia), Sabex (Canada), Hexal (Germany) and Eon Labs (U.S.). In 2006, Sandoz employed approximately 21,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 6 billion.

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