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Press Release

Nycomed to acquire local portfolio from Sanofi-Aventis and Zentiva

Nycomed agreed with Sanofi-Aventis and Zentiva to purchase 20 branded generic products in several Central and Eastern European countries. The agreement will notably strengthen Nycomed's market position in particular in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The transaction received approvals from the European Commission and the Czech Antimonopoly Office, and it is expected to be closed in September 2009.

In an asset transfer transaction, Nycomed will purchase a portfolio of branded generic products in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Estonia, and Bulgaria, with a total annual turnover of approximately € 17 million. Nycomed will also assume production in the coming years. Both parties agreed not to disclose further details on the transaction.

Among the acquired products is Zentiva's well established hypnotic Hypnogen (Zolpidem) brand in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Estonia.

In the Czech Republic, the acquisition comprises a strong franchise of beta-blockers (Vasocardin, Betaxa, and Tenoloc), which will strengthen Nycomed's well established cardiovascular business around Ebrantil (Urapidil). Among the other acquired products in this country are brands like Trental, Flavobion, and Ercefuryl.

Frank Rotmann, Area Manager Central and Eastern Europe commented: "These brands will complement our local portfolios very well. Especially in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, this will significantly strengthen our position in Primary Care."

About Nycomed

Nycomed is a privately owned global pharmaceutical company with a differentiated portfolio focused on branded medicines in gastroenterology, respiratory and inflammatory diseases, pain, osteoporosis and tissue management. An extensive range of OTC products completes the portfolio.

Its R&D is structured around partnerships and in-licensing is a cornerstone of the company's growth strategy.

Nycomed employs 12,000 associates worldwide, and its products are available in more than 100 countries. It has strong platforms in Europe and in fast-growing markets such as Russia/CIS and Latin America. While the US and Japan are commercialised through best-in-class partners, Nycomed plans to further strengthen its own position in key Asian markets.

Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, the company generated total sales of €3.4 billion in 2008 and an adjusted EBITDA of €1.2 billion.

For more information visit www.nycomed.com

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