



Roskilde, 14 December 2006

Press Release

Nycomed receives EU and US antitrust clearances for the acquisition of Altana Pharma

Nycomed today announced that it has received the necessary merger approvals from competition authorities in the EU and the US, allowing the Company, in coordination with ALTANA AG, to continue the transaction process according to plan.

On 21 September 2006, Nycomed announced that it had reached an agreement to acquire ALTANA Pharma AG, the pharmaceutical business of German-based international pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, ALTANA AG. Closing of the transaction was subject to the approval of the shareholders of ALTANA AG and necessary antitrust clearances.

In the EU, Nycomed received the European Commission's decision to unconditionally approve the proposed merger on 13 December 2006. In the US, the waiting period for antitrust clearance under the so-called Hart-Scott-Rodino Act expired on 27 November 2006. As per that date the transaction is considered approved in the US. Together, these clearances provide Nycomed and ALTANA AG with the necessary merger approvals to continue the transaction process according to plan.

"This is an important step towards bringing Nycomed and ALTANA Pharma together and creating an outstanding new healthcare company. With the antitrust clearances now in place, we can continue the process and hopefully, as previously announced, close the transaction by the end of the year," said Håkan Björklund, Nycomed CEO.

After receiving EU and US merger approvals for the acquisition, closing of the transaction is now only subject to the approval of the shareholders of ALTANA AG with the extraordinary general meeting scheduled for 19-20 December 2006.

Pending the ALTANA AG shareholders' final approval, closing is expected to be announced on 29 December 2006 and will be effective from 1 January 2007.

The combined group will continue under the Nycomed corporate brand name and will be headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland. The company will have an initial workforce of around 12,000 people across more than 40 countries, and have estimated annual sales of approximately € 3.1 billion and EBITDA of approximately € 848 million (based on 2005 results).

About Nycomed

Nycomed is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to meeting needs in Europe. The company provides hospital products throughout the region and general practitioner and pharmacy medicines in selected markets.

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New products are sourced through licensing agreements with research companies. Here Nycomed provides late-stage clinical development, registration and marketing.

Headquartered in Roskilde, Denmark, the company employs about 3,500 people throughout Europe and Russia-CIS. Nycomed is privately owned and had a 2005 revenue of € 747.5 million.

For more information visit www.nycomed.com

For further information

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