January 27, 2006

SNDA FOR A FAST-ACTING POSTPRANDIAL HYPOGLICEMIC AGENT *FASTIC®* TABLET / *STARSIS®* TABLET FOR COMBINATION THERAPY WITH BIGUANIDE WAS FILED

January 27th, 2006 - Tokyo - Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President & CEO: Norio Yamaguchi) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President & CEO: Toichi Takenaka) announced today that a supplemental New Drug Application for *FASTIC* Tablet / *STARSIS* Tablet (generic name: nateglinide*1), a fast-acting postprandial hypoglycemic agent, jontly developed by the companies for the indication of combination use with biguanide agents*2 was filed.

Nateglinide, an amino acid derivative, is an oral hypoglycemic agent having the insulin secreting action with a quick onset and short duration. After the launch in August 1999, nateglinide has been used in monotherapy or in combination with alpha-glucosidase inhibitors for the treatment of patients with non-insulin-dependent (type II) diabetes to improve postprandial blood glucose changes. Since the recent clinical trials with Japanese patients for the combination therapy with biguanide agents was completed, the companies have filed the sNDA to add the indication.

At present, nateglinide is sold in Japan by Ajinomoto Co., Inc. through Sankyo Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Tokyo) under the brand names of *FASTIC* Tablet 30 and *FASTIC* Tablet 90, and by Astellas Pharma Inc. under the brand names of *STARSIS* Tablet 30 mg and *STARSIS* Tablet 90 mg.

***1 About nateglinide :**

Nateglinide is licensed by Ajinomoto Co., Inc. to Novartis Pharma AG (Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland) worldwide except for Japan and South Korea, where Ildong Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Seoul, South Korea) is the licensee, and sold in more than 70 countries and regions as a diabetic agent.

***2 About biguanide agents :**

Biguanide agents are oral hypoglycemic agents that improve insulin resistance by the main action mechanism of hepatic glucose production inhibition of which metformin

hydrochloride and buformin hydrochloride are sold in Japan. Combination therapies of diabetic agents having different action mechanisms and characters have been recognized as effective therapy. Outside Japan, especially in Europe and the US, the combination therapy of nateglinide and biguanide agents is approved, however, there was no clinical trial data with Japanese patients.

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