

November 30, 2006

**SNDA FOR A FAST-ACTING POSTPRANDIAL HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENT  
*FASTIC*<sup>®</sup> TABLET / *STARSIS*<sup>®</sup> TABLET  
FOR COMBINATION THERAPY WITH INSULIN SENSITIZER WAS FILED**

November 30, 2006 - Tokyo - Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President & CEO: Norio Yamaguchi) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (Headquarters: Tokyo, President & CEO: Masafumi Nogimori) announced today that a supplemental New Drug Application for *FASTIC* Tablet / *STARSIS* Tablet (generic name: nateglinide\*1), a fast-acting postprandial hypoglycemic agent, jointly developed by the companies for the indication of combination use with insulin sensitizer\*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 type 2 diabetes to improve postprandial blood glucose changes. Since the recent clinical trials with Japanese patients for the combination therapy with insulin sensitizer 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 80 countries and regions as a diabetic agent.

**\*2 About insulin sensitizer :**

Insulin sensitizer is oral hypoglycemic agents that lower blood glucose by promoting taking in glucose to peripheral tissues including skeletal muscles and adipose tissues by

reinforcement of insulin action, and by inhibiting gluconeogenesis in liver. As a glucose sensitizer, Pioglitazone HCl is sold in Japan. Combination therapies of diabetic agents having different action mechanisms and characteristics have been recognized as effective therapy. In the US, the combination therapy of nateglinide and insulin sensitizer is approved, however, there was no clinical trial data with Japanese patients.

#####

<b>Contacts for inquiries or additional information</b>
Astellas Pharma Inc. Corporate Communications Tel: +81-3-3244-3201 Fax: +81-3-5201-7473 <a href="http://www.astellas.com">http://www.astellas.com</a>