



**AJINOMOTO®**

 味の素製薬株式会社

## Corporate Press Release

29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### **Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals Have Filed an Application for the Manufacture and Marketing Authorisation of a New Oral Bowel Cleansing Agent in Japan**

Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (President, Tomoyasu Toyoda; Headquarters, Chuo-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter “Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals”) have filed an application in Japan for the manufacture and marketing authorisation of a new bowel cleansing agent (code: AJG522) which will be used for bowel preparation prior to colonoscopy.

This product was originally developed by Norgine B.V. (the Netherlands) and has been sold under the brand name of MOVIPREP® in Europe and North America and is the world's most frequently administered branded bowel preparation prior to colonoscopy and other procedures requiring a clean bowel<sup>1</sup>. Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals licensed the exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and sell the product in Japan.

Given the increasing number of patients who suffer from colon cancer in Japan<sup>2</sup>, the Japanese government have promoted cancer screening for the early detection of colon cancer based on the “Guidelines for intensive health education for cancer prevention and cancer screening (1998)” and “The 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-year comprehensive strategies against cancer (2003)” published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals markets Niflec® which is used for cleaning the bowel prior to colonoscopy. Colonoscopy is currently recommended as the first examination in the 2nd stage screening of colon cancer. Ajinomoto expects that MOVIPREP, with its reduced dosage volume will contribute to improving patient’s quality of life.

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## **About Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals**

Ajinomoto is a global manufacturer of high-quality seasonings, processed foods, beverages, amino acids, pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals. For many decades Ajinomoto has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies. Today, the company is becoming increasingly involved with solutions for improved food resources, human health and global sustainability. Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals, responsible for pharmaceutical business in Ajinomoto group, provides unique products, specializing in gastrointestinal diseases and metabolic diseases. Ajinomoto Pharmaceuticals is committed to a healthier and better quality of life of each individual patient through practice of For Your Quality Of Life to realise wishes of patients and medical practitioners.

## **About Norgine BV**

Norgine is an independent, successful European specialty pharmaceutical company that has been established for over 100 years and has a presence in all major European markets. In 2011, Norgine's net product sales were €250 million and the company employs over 1,200 people.

Norgine's focus is the development and marketing of pharmaceutical products that address significant unmet clinical needs in therapeutic areas such as gastroenterology, hepatology and supportive care. The Company currently markets a range of products in various markets in its key therapeutic areas e.g. MOVICOL<sup>®</sup> for the treatment of constipation and faecal impaction, MOVIPREP<sup>®</sup> a bowel cleansing preparation, KLEAN-PREP<sup>®</sup> for large bowel preparation prior to colonoscopy or surgery, XIFAXAN<sup>®</sup> for the treatment of traveller's diarrhoea and ORAMORPH<sup>®</sup> for the treatment of moderate to severe pain associated with cancer.

Norgine is active in research and development and currently has products in various stages of clinical development. Norgine manufactures most of its own products in Hengoed, UK and Dreux, France. For more information: [www.norgine.com](http://www.norgine.com)

## **References**

1. IMS annual sales of top ten products within the bowel prep markets MAT Q3 2007 - MAT Q3 2011
2. Hoi-Yan Yiu, Alice S. Whittemore, Atsuko Shibata et al. International Journal of Cancer, Volume 109, Issue 5, pages 777–781, 1 May 2004 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ijc.20030/full>

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