



Media Release
For immediate Release

ASPEN RECEIVES US \$1 MILLION IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

Johannesburg (23 February 2010) - Eli Lilly and Company today announced the US\$1 million milestone payment to Aspen, South Africa's leading pharmaceutical manufacturer, as part of the joint collaboration on expanding access to medicines to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

The milestone is part of a Transfer of Technology agreement between Aspen and Lilly, initiated in 2003 under the umbrella of the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership, a global project to tackle the growing MDR-TB epidemic.

The collaboration involved the transfer of Lilly's drug-manufacturing and packaging technology to enable Aspen to manufacture two essential anti-TB drugs. Lilly provided manufacturing know-how, access to technical experts, and other assistance to assure the quality and sustainability of the manufacturing processes.

"Aspen has invested more than R1 billion in the construction and enhancement of its local manufacturing facilities which includes South Africa's only freeze-dried lyophilisation capability. The Lilly MDR-TB initiative collaboration arrangement is a further important milestone as it enables Aspen to manufacture and distribute Capreomycin, one of the few key treatment options available for the highly virulent MDR-TB. Lilly's approach, amongst others, through the capex contribution to the project, is consistent with South Africa's Industrial Policy of retaining and developing critical skills and unique technologies, reducing the dependency on imported products and providing export opportunities for the pharmaceutical sector", said Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Senior Executive.

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“This payment represents an important milestone in our partnership with Aspen,” said Iain Richardson, Senior Director of Global Supply Chain and Logistics at Eli Lilly and Company. “This collaboration ensures patients in the region and globally will receive an uninterrupted supply of quality MDR-TB drugs from a reliable manufacturer.”

“Moderate estimates indicate that about half a million new cases of MDR-TB arise globally every year. In addition to the need for more effective measures for preventing, identifying and diagnosing this disease, affordable and readily available treatment is desperately needed. This local agreement with Aspen will grant thousands of patients across South Africa essential access to treatment,” says Dr Osborn Mahanjana, Corporate Affairs Director at Lilly South Africa.

The partnership with Aspen represents one of four similar partnerships Lilly holds with pharmaceutical manufacturers based in high burden countries where MDR-TB is most prevalent. These additional partnerships are between Lilly and SIA International (Russia), Shasun Chemicals and Drugs (India), and Hisun Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd (China).

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The Lilly MDR-TB Partnership is a public-private initiative that encompasses global health and relief organizations, academic institutions and private companies, and is led by Eli Lilly and Company. Its mission is to address the expanding crisis of MDR-TB. The partnership is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to fight MDR-TB through increasing drug supply at concessionary prices; research; providing training in prevention, treatment, and surveillance; promoting awareness and community support programs and sharing drug manufacturing technology with nations most at risk of MDR-TB.



JSE Ltd listed Aspen is Africa's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer and a leading generics manufacturer in the southern hemisphere. Aspen is a supplier of branded and generic pharmaceuticals in approximately 100 countries across the globe and of consumer and nutritional products in selected territories. Aspen has 14 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities at 10 pharmaceutical manufacturing sites on three continents. Four of the sites are located in South Africa, one in India, two in East Africa, three in Latin America and one in Germany.
