

## Lupin to acquire 51% stake in Dafra

BSE : 500257	NSE: Lupin	REUTERS: LUPN.BO	BLOOMBERG: LPC IN
--------------	------------	------------------	-------------------

**Mumbai, May 25, 2006:** Lupin Ltd (Lupin) has signed a MoU to acquire a 51% equity in Artifex Finance CVA, Belgium, along with its subsidiaries including Dafra Pharma Ltd (Dafra), a Belgian pharmaceutical company focussed on anti-malarials.

Malaria has a devastating global impact, as there are 350 to 500 million incidents every year with over 1.5 to 2.7 million of deaths. The problem in children is even more severe, as a child dies of malaria every 30 seconds. In addition to the devastating toll malaria takes on human life, the disease also has substantial negative impact on the economic development of nations in which the disease is endemic. The World Health Organization, the United Nation's health agency, estimated that malaria drains around \$12 billion every year on African economies, hampering economic development and growth.

The WHO earlier this year urged pharmaceutical companies to stop selling Artemisinin, a malaria drug that is based on an ancient Chinese herbal remedy, as single-drug treatment because this practice hastens the development of resistance to the medicine. Roll Back Malaria (RBM) and WHO now recommend the use of Artemisinin based Combination Therapies (ACT's), in order to ensure high cure rates (95% or more) of *P.falciparum* malaria and to reduce the spread of drug resistance.

Malaria is endemic in most parts of Africa. WHO and RBM aim with the help of Global Fund to provide about 200 million treatments in 2007 to various African countries.

Dafra is a dedicated anti-malarial company that provides a complete basket of ACT's including a paediatric suspension, which is a unique offering and also holds a patent on a new combination therapy that cures malaria in 24 hours. Dafra has developed a marketing and distribution network covering over 25 countries in Africa and works closely with the National Malaria Boards in various countries.

Lupin is a leader in Anti-TB medicines and prequalified by WHO for supplies to Global Drug Facility and other multilateral organisations. Lupin plans to leverage its experience and credibility in supply of drugs to WHO related programs and use its expertise in fixed-dose combination products and novel drug delivery platforms. Lupin and Dafra plan to jointly develop new therapies in this field for use by WHO and RBM.

Simultaneously Lupin will be able to access the existing Dafra infrastructure and distribution network in Africa to market its range of products.

Dr Desh Bandhu Gupta, Chairman, Lupin, said, "This acquisition is a great strategic initiative and will leverage the company's TB franchise with the

WHO / Global fund. Lupin's R&D will be able to add considerable value and move pipeline projects faster to the market."

Dr F H Jansen, President, Dafra Pharma Ltd, said "Dafra has long been engaged in the development and marketing of the new generation of anti-malarial drugs. The strong and high quality R&D capacities of Lupin together with Dafra's experience in ACT's and in Africa will lead to great synergies on the R&D, manufacturing and continued global marketing of ACT's of high efficacy, quality and safety and thus contribute to a massive leap forward in the fight against malaria."

#### **About Lupin**

Headquartered in Mumbai, Lupin Ltd. is a leading pharmaceutical company with strong research focus. It has a programme for developing New Chemical Entities. The Company has state-of-the-art R&D center in Pune. The Company is a leading global player in Anti-TB, Cephalosporins (anti-infectives) and Cardiovascular drugs (prils and statins) and has a notable presence in the areas of diabetology, NSAIDS and Asthma.

For the financial year ended March 2006, the Company's Revenues and Profit after Tax were Rs.16, 610 million (US\$ 375 million) and Rs.1, 827 million (US\$ 41 million) respectively.

#### **About Dafra**

Headquartered in Belgium, Dafra Pharma Ltd (<http://www.dafra.be>) is a family-owned pharmaceutical company, established by Mr. Bruno Jansen (Chief Executive Officer) and mainly specialised in the R&D and distribution of Artemisinin based Combination Therapies (ACT's) against malaria. It has a strong sales network with over 100 delegates in Africa and with branches in Mali, South Africa, Congo and Kenya.

#### **For further information contact:**

Raju Kane  
The Source  
Tel. +91 22 24901327, 24901328  
Telefax: +91 22 24901325  
Mobile: +91 98200 45656  
E-mail: [rajukane@sourcepr.com](mailto:rajukane@sourcepr.com)