



Your Contact

Nicole Mommsen +49 6151 72-62445
Markus Talanow +49 6151 72-7144
Investor Relations +49 6151 72-3321

News Release

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's Acquisition of Sigma-Aldrich Receives Clearance from EU Regulators – Approvals Also Granted by Japan and China

Darmstadt, Germany, June 15, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials, today announced that the European Commission has approved its planned acquisition of U.S.-based life science company Sigma-Aldrich.

The EU clearance, which is subject to certain conditions, follows the recent antitrust approvals in Japan (JFTC) and by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). In addition, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany has already secured antitrust clearance from the U.S., Taiwan, South Africa, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

“Those approvals are very important as we’re working toward completing the acquisition of Sigma-Aldrich, and we remain excited about the transformational opportunities this acquisition will create for our company in life science,” said Bernd Reckmann, Member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “We will now work with all related parties in the coming months to swiftly implement the commitments that have been agreed with the EU. As always, we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for both customers and employees. We will work closely with employee representatives to ensure that our values as a responsible employer are reflected throughout the process.”

Merck KGaA

Frankfurter Strasse 250
64293 Darmstadt
Hotline +49 6151 72-5000
www.emdgroup.com

Head Media Relations -62445
Spokesperson: -9591 / -7144 / -6328
Fax +49 6151 72-3138
media.relations@emdgroup.com



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As part of the EU commitments, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Sigma-Aldrich have agreed to sell parts of Sigma-Aldrich's solvents and inorganics business in Europe. These include its manufacturing assets in Seelze, Germany, where most of the solvents and inorganics sold by Sigma-Aldrich in Europe are manufactured. In addition, the divestiture of solvents and inorganics sold by Sigma-Aldrich worldwide under the Fluka, Riedel-de-Haen and Hydranal brands as well as a temporary license to the Sigma-Aldrich brand for the supply of solvents and inorganics in the European Economic Area have been agreed. The commitments also include the transfer of customer information and a solution to ensure a temporary channel to the market.

Based on the recent clearances, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany said it will continue to work toward a mid-2015 completion of the transaction as detailed on the occasion of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's first-quarter earnings release on May 19, 2015. The closing remains subject to certain other conditions, including remaining antitrust clearances from Brazil's Council for Economic Defense (CADE) as well as from the competition authorities of Israel (IAA) and Korea (KFTC). Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will continue to closely cooperate with the relevant antitrust authorities .

On September 22, 2014, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Sigma-Aldrich announced that they entered into a definitive agreement under which Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany will acquire Sigma-Aldrich for \$17.0 billion (€13.1 billion), establishing one of the leading players in the \$130 billion global life science industry. The acquisition is a key element in Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's "Fit for 2018" transformation and growth program aimed at strengthening the company's three growth platforms, healthcare, life science and performance materials.

The transaction presents an opportunity for both companies and their customers in regard to their product offerings and services in life science. Once it has been completed, the combined company will be able to serve life science customers around the world with a highly attractive set of established brands and an efficient supply chain that can support the delivery of more than 300,000 products. In the Laboratory &



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Academia business, together Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's life science business, which operates as EMD Millipore in the U.S. and Canada, and Sigma-Aldrich will offer their customers a complementary range of products across laboratory chemicals, biologics and reagents. In pharma and biopharma production, Sigma-Aldrich will complement Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's existing products and capabilities with additions along the entire value chain of drug production and validation.

All Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, press releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the EMD Group Website. In case you are a resident of the USA or Canada please go to www.emdgroup.com/subscribe to register again for your online subscription of this service as our newly introduced geo-targeting requires new links in the email. You may later change your selection or discontinue this service.

Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials. The company has six businesses – Biopharmaceuticals, Consumer Health, Allergopharma, Biosimilars, Life Science and Performance Materials – and generated sales of € 11.3 billion in 2014. Around 39,000 employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to foster the success of customers and to help meet global challenges. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the company has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70% interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany holds the global rights to the Merck name and brand. The only exceptions are Canada and the United States, where the company operates as EMD Serono, EMD Millipore and EMD Performance Materials.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This communication may include "forward-looking statements." Statements that include words such as "anticipate," "expect," "should," "would," "intend," "plan," "project," "seek," "believe," "will," and other words of similar meaning in connection with future events or future operating or financial performance are often used to identify forward-looking statements. All statements in this communication, other than those relating to historical information or current conditions, are forward-looking statements. We intend these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond control of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, which could cause actual results to differ materially from such statements.

Risks and uncertainties relating to the proposed transaction with Sigma-Aldrich Corporation ("Sigma-Aldrich") include, but are not limited to: uncertainties as to the timing of the transaction; the risk that regulatory approvals required for the transaction are not obtained or are obtained subject to conditions that



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are not anticipated or that are difficult to satisfy; competitive responses to the transaction; litigation relating to the transaction; uncertainty of the expected financial performance of the combined company following completion of the proposed transaction; the ability of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to achieve the cost-savings and synergies contemplated by the proposed transaction within the expected time frame; the ability of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, to promptly and effectively integrate the businesses of Sigma-Aldrich and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; the effects of the business combination of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Sigma-Aldrich, including the combined company's future financial condition, operating results, strategy and plans; the implications of the proposed transaction on certain employee benefit plans of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and Sigma-Aldrich; and disruption from the proposed transaction making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers.

Additional risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: the risks of more restrictive regulatory requirements regarding drug pricing, reimbursement and approval; the risk of stricter regulations for the manufacture, testing and marketing of products; the risk of destabilization of political systems and the establishment of trade barriers; the risk of a changing marketing environment for multiple sclerosis products in the European Union; the risk of greater competitive pressure due to biosimilars; the risks of research and development; the risks of discontinuing development projects and regulatory approval of developed medicines; the risk of a temporary ban on products/production facilities or of non-registration of products due to non-compliance with quality standards; the risk of an import ban on products to the United States due to an FDA warning letter; the risks of dependency on suppliers; risks due to product-related crime and espionage; risks in relation to the use of financial instruments; liquidity risks; counterparty risks; market risks; risks of impairment on balance sheet items; risks from pension obligations; risks from product-related and patent law disputes; risks from antitrust law proceedings; risks from drug pricing by the divested Generics Group; risks in human resources; risks from e-crime and cyber attacks; risks due to failure of business-critical information technology applications or to failure of data center capacity; environmental and safety risks; unanticipated contract or regulatory issues; a potential downgrade in the rating of the indebtedness of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, or Sigma-Aldrich; downward pressure on the common stock price of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, or Sigma-Aldrich and its impact on goodwill impairment evaluations; the impact of future regulatory or legislative actions; and the risks and uncertainties detailed by Sigma-Aldrich with respect to its business as described in its reports and documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included elsewhere, including the Report on Risks and Opportunities Section of the most recent annual report and quarterly report of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and the Risk Factors section of Sigma-Aldrich's most recent reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q. Any forward-looking statements made in this communication are qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements, and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by us will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that they will have the expected consequences to, or effects on, us or our business or operations. Except to the extent required by applicable law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.