



## The Medicines Patent Pool Signs A Record Seven New Sub-Licences to Speed the Availability of Generic HIV Medicines to Developing Countries

*MPP forges first agreement with a Chinese manufacturer **Desano**; and with **Cipla, Mylan and Micro Labs**; Extends Collaborations with **Aurobindo, Laurus Labs and Emcure***

Geneva – 17 July 2014. Three days before the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia, the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) announced seven new sub-licensing agreements for the manufacture of generic HIV medicines, atazanavir (ATV) and dolutegravir (DTG). The United Nations-backed MPP negotiates licences with key patent holders to speed access of low-cost, generic medicines to developing countries. To date, the MPP has signed agreements with Bristol Myers-Squibb, Gilead Sciences, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, the US National Institutes of Health and ViiV Healthcare for eight antiretrovirals (ARVs) and one medicine for an HIV opportunistic infection.

“With licences signed today, four new manufacturers are joining us to speed the availability of crucial medicines, ATV and DTG, to developing countries. This almost doubles our network of generic partners to ten companies,” said Greg Perry, Executive Director, MPP. “Increased generic competition will ultimately bring prices down and increase availability to allow national treatment programmes to treat many more people in their countries.”

Following its December agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb for a licence on atazanavir, a WHO-preferred second-line therapy, MPP has signed its first sub-licence with a Chinese generic firm, Desano, a supplier of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) based in Shanghai, and with Aurobindo and Emcure, key manufacturers of generic antiretroviral medicines, for the production of low-cost atazanavir. Increasing access of second-line treatments for HIV is crucial as more people living with HIV develop resistance to first-line regimens. The WHO estimates there will be more than one million people on second-line treatment by 2016 and many more will need access to these new medicines.

“As one of the leading Chinese pharmaceutical companies dedicated to the development, manufacturing and supply of Anti-HIV API and finished pharmaceutical products, Desano is honored to be the first Chinese enterprise cooperating with MPP to manufacture high quality and affordable HIV medicines,” said Dr. Jinliang Li, Vice President of Desano. “We are ready to contribute additional efforts from China to the global fight against AIDS.”

“Aurobindo, a long-time MPP partner, is pleased to help ensure the timely introduction of generic ATV in developing countries,” said Arvind Vasudeva, Chief Executive Officer, Formulations at Aurobindo. “This medicine offers new options for people living with HIV who are no longer able to take their first HIV regimens and its distribution in resource-poor settings is crucial.”

Three months after MPP signed ground-breaking agreements with ViiV Healthcare on new antiretroviral dolutegravir, the organisation has signed four sub-licences for the manufacture of generic versions of the product for both adult and paediatric care. Laurus Labs, granted an MPP licence to produce five Gilead ARVs in 2012, has been granted a new licence for DTG. Micro Labs, a producer of generics including WHO pre-qualified ARVs, Cipla, a global pharmaceutical company with a strong presence in the HIV field and Mylan, a global generics and specialty pharmaceutical company, have become new MPP sublicensing partners.

“The HIV field needs new drugs all the time due to the development of resistance and treatment failure,” said Dr. Jaideep Gogtay, Chief Medical Officer of Cipla. “Dolutegravir belongs to the new class of drugs - integrase inhibitors. This class of drugs brings new options for patients, has advantages over the existing drugs in terms of high efficacy and also brings down the viral loads rapidly. Access to the medicine in developing countries will make a major difference to the lives of HIV/AIDS patients living there.”

“Mylan is an established leader in ARVs with a global portfolio of 43 high-quality products. In continuation of our commitment to providing access to a comprehensive range of high-quality, affordable ARV medicines, Mylan is pleased to work with MPP in sub-licensing a new molecule Dolutegravir (DTG),” said Rajiv Malik, President, Mylan. “DTG represents a significant advancement in HIV treatment as it does not require boosting when combined with other appropriate ARVs and has a good efficacy profile at very small doses. This addition further strengthens our portfolio of HIV/AIDS products and helps us deliver on our mission to provide the world's seven billion people with access to high quality medicine.”

“The new sub-licensing agreements for generic DTG are a welcome development in ensuring that we reach developing countries with a promising new ARV in record time,” said Mr. NK Kothari, Executive Director, Micro Labs. “We hope to have a generic product available as soon as possible to strengthen HIV treatment options in hundreds of countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America.”

- # # # -

### **About the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP)**

The Medicines Patent Pool is a United Nations-backed organisation founded in 2010 by UNITAID to increase access to HIV treatment and spur new innovation worldwide. The MPP offers a new public health approach to negotiating patent licences for the production of low-cost versions of new and existing medicines and works with manufacturers to encourage the development of needed new technologies such as fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) and formulations suitable for children. To date, MPP has signed licensing agreements for eight antiretrovirals and for one medicine for an HIV opportunistic infection. Ten generic manufacturers have now licensed from the organisation.

### **About Cipla Limited**

Cipla is a global pharmaceutical company which uses cutting edge technology and innovation to meet the everyday needs of all patients. For more than 70 years, Cipla has emerged as one of the most respected pharmaceutical names in India as well as across more than 170 countries. Our portfolio includes 2000 products in 65 therapeutic categories with one quality standard globally. Cipla's turnover in 2013-14 was 1.7 billion USD.

Whilst delivering a long-term sustainable business, Cipla recognises its duty to provide affordable medicines. Cipla's emphasis on access for patients was recognized globally for the pioneering role played in HIV/AIDS treatment as the first pharmaceutical company to provide a triple combination anti-retroviral (ARV) in Africa at less than one dollar a day and thereby treating many millions of patients since 2001.

Cipla's research and development focuses on developing innovative products and drug delivery systems and has given India and the world many 'firsts' for instance Triomune. In a tightly regulated environment, the company's manufacturing facilities have approvals from all the main regulators including USFDA, UKMHRA, WHO, MCC, ANVISA, and PMDA which means the company provides one universal standard both domestically and internationally.

**Media Contact:**

Katherine Moore  
Head of Communications  
The Medicines Patent Pool  
Tel: +41 22 533 5054 | Mobile: +41 79 825 4786  
[kmoore@medicinespatentpool.org](mailto:kmoore@medicinespatentpool.org)

Charlotte Chunawala  
Corporate Communications  
Cipla Ltd  
Mobile: +91 7506257377  
E Mail id: [charlotte.chunawala@cipla.com](mailto:charlotte.chunawala@cipla.com);

Jaisingh Balakrishnan  
Corporate Communications  
Cipla Ltd  
Mobile: +91 9833836185  
E Mail id: [jaisingh.krishnan@cipla.com](mailto:jaisingh.krishnan@cipla.com);