

AstraZeneca established new sales organisation in Germany - Sale of the Plankstadt site saves majority of jobs

Wedel/Plankstadt, 27 November 2007



The Management of AstraZeneca Deutschland, a subsidiary of AstraZeneca PLC, announced the successful finalisation of sales negotiations for the company's site in Plankstadt (Baden-Württemberg) today. The site will be disposed to the International Chemical Group (ICIG), Frankfurt/Main. ICIG will define potential need

for reorganisation. It was agreed that at least 290 of currently 360 jobs in the manufacturing division will be retained until 2009. AstraZeneca in turn has guaranteed a specified volume for the plant until 2009.

Our employees in Plankstadt are very committed and qualified," said Dr. Norbert Marquardt, Vice President Operations and member of the Management Board AstraZeneca Deutschland responsible for the Plankstadt location. "We are pleased that we were able to avert a site closure and that Plankstadt will not only continue its operations, but also has the chance of a long-term future. ICIG is an ideal partner in every respect." AstraZeneca Deutschland and ICIG have agreed to not disclose any financial details of the transaction. In April, AstraZeneca has announced its decision to remove the Plankstadt site from the company's global manufacturing network. The site will be transferred to ICIG on January 01 or on February 01, 2008 at the latest.

ICIG Managing Director Patrick Schnitzer said: "The Plankstadt site matches our business strategy perfectly. We extend our cordial welcome to AstraZeneca staff in our company."

ICIG Managing Director Dr. Achim Riemann said: "We have many years of experience with acquisitions of production sites from manufacturing networks and have proven that we implement this business model with commercial success."

Baden-Württemberg Minister of Finance Gerhard Stratthaus said: "I am pleased about the successful sale and preservation of the Plankstadt location. This is very good news, especially for the workforce and the community. I thank all involved for their commitment."

In parallel AstraZeneca completed the end of April announced restructuring of its German sales organisation in early October. "We are one of the first pharmaceutical companies in Germany to have responded so decisively to the challenges of the current business environment in this country," said Mark Fladrich, Managing Director of AstraZeneca Deutschland. Following the announcements, it has reduced its marketing and sales operations significantly as part of a restructuring programme and reduced the number of positions by approximately 500. "We implemented these measures in a socially responsible manner. We managed to reduce redundancies by two thirds to 150 despite the high reduction of positions," Mr. Fladrich added. The employees leaving the company had been offered an extensive voluntary social package and employment in a voluntary transfer company.

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