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Press release

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Pharmaceutical raw materials – Merck holds first Pharma Forum

Topics: Compliance, sourcing, risk minimization, certification of excipients

Darmstadt, November 24, 2009 – Merck KGaA announced today that it will be holding its first Pharma Forum **on February 23, 2010 in Darmstadt**. The focus will be on pharmaceutical excipients. Regulatory authorities and industry experts will be discussing the implementation of the latest legal requirements for pharmaceutical excipients.

Representing the GMP monitoring side (Good Manufacturing Practice), Mr. Rudolf Völler from the Darmstadt regional council will present new developments from the perspective of this government body. The Chairman of the *Qualified Person Association*, Dr. Bernd Renger from Vetter, a pharmaceutical company based in Ravensburg, Germany, will present the requirements that pharmaceutical manufacturers place on raw material producers. Practice-relevant presentations by *Merck* and *NovoNordisk* will then show implementation in day-to-day work. The new IPEC/EFCG certification program for excipients will be presented exclusively in Germany within the scope of this forum. Going forward, this concept is expected to take on major significance for manufacturers and users of excipients.

The Merck Pharma Forum is aimed at everyone involved in manufacturing and using pharmaceutical raw materials. This includes not only raw material producers and pharmaceutical company employees working in Procurement and Quality Assurance, but also drug regulatory authorities.

More details about the Pharma Forum are available at www.merck4pharma.de/forum

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Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 7.6 billion in 2008, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approximately 33,000 employees in 60 countries. Merck's success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.