

Press Release

Zug, 31 October 2011

Pacira Pharmaceuticals announces U.S. FDA approval of EXPAREL(TM) for postsurgical pain management

Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: PCRX), the second largest portfolio position of HBM BioVentures, announced today that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved its latest product EXPAREL(TM). Exparel is a locally injectable formulation designed to provide pain relief for up to 72 hours following an operation. This differentiates EXPAREL(TM) from currently available local anesthetics, which have a relatively short pain-reducing effect. HBM BioVentures has been one of the founding investors of Pacira and is its largest single shareholder.

The FDA approval of EXPAREL(TM) represents a significant milestone for Pacira and its successful commercialisation should create further value.

HBM BioVentures first invested in Pacira in 2007, and subsequently increased its stake in 2009, 2010 and 2011. HBM BioVentures holds 3.1 million shares (18.2 percent of the company) for a total value of CHF 27.6 million as per 28 October 2011.

About Pacira Inc.

Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a specialist pharmaceutical company which focuses on the development, manufacturing and commercialisation of innovative pharmaceutical products. All Pacira products are based on the patented DepoFoam® platform technology. For more information on Pacira, please visit www.pacira.com.

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Profile of HBM BioVentures Ltd

HBM BioVentures invests in the healthcare sector. The Company holds and manages an international portfolio of some twenty five promising companies in the biotechnology/ human medicine, medical technology and diagnostics sectors. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market, or at an advanced stage of development. The focus of investment is on follow-on financing for existing portfolio companies. These portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided on their strategic directions. This is what makes HBM BioVentures an interesting alternative to investing in big pharma and biotech companies. HBM BioVentures has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

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