



PRESS RELEASE

Nicholas Piramal reports Q3 FY2008 results; Total Revenues grow 13% to Rs. 7.3 billion, Net Profit up by 31% to Rs. 727.6 million

Domestic formulations Sales grow by 15.6% to Rs. 3.4 billion

Mumbai, 18 January 2008: Nicholas Piramal India Limited (NPIL) (NSE: NICOLASPIR, BSE: 500302) today reported third quarter (Q3) results for FY2008.

Consolidated Revenues for the quarter ended 31 December 2007 increased by 12.8% to Rs. 7.3 billion over third quarter of FY2007. Operating Profit grew by 24.9% to Rs.1.2 billion, while Net Profit for the quarter grew by 31.0% to Rs. 727.6 million. EPS for the quarter was up by 31.2% to Rs. 3.5

During the period under review, the domestic branded formulations sales grew 15.6% to Rs.3.4 billion as compared to market growth of 12.3% (ORG-IMS MAT Nov-07). NPIL outperformed the market in 6 out of the total 10 therapeutic areas and grew particularly well in Dermatology, Ophthalmology, and OTC segments of the market.

The Company's Custom Manufacturing (CMG) Sales grew 7% to Rs. 3.4 billion during Q3FY2008. Custom Manufacturing Revenues from facilities in India increased above 200% to Rs. 554 million during Q3FY2008, compared to Rs. 180 million in Q3FY2007.

In the Pathlabs business (Wellspring), NPIL continues to expand rapidly. The revenues for the quarter increased by 88.5% to Rs. 314.7 million during Q3FY2008. Wellspring is one of largest providers of diagnostic services in India and currently has 85 centres spread across 57 locations.

During the quarter, NPIL also entered into a 49:51 Joint Venture with a leading Japanese company ARKRAY, Inc. for marketing diagnostic products, mainly Self-Monitoring Blood Glucose System in India.

On the Research and Development front, NPIL secured product patent from US Patent and Trademark Office for its Cyclin-Dependent Kinase (CDK) inhibitors. NPIL also entered into a collaboration agreement with Merck & Co., Inc to discover and develop new drugs for two selected targets provided by Merck.

The de-merger process of NCE R&D unit is on the verge of completion. The NCE R&D expenditure for the quarter was Rs. 228.7 million and Rs. 658.9 million for the nine months ended 31st December 2007. Without considering the NCE R&D spend and exceptional items, the EPS was Rs. 4.7 for the quarter and Rs. 12.8 for the nine months ended 31st December 2007.

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About Nicholas Piramal India Limited:

Nicholas Piramal India Limited ("NPIL") is one of India's largest pharmaceutical companies with a growth track record of above 30% CAGR since 1988. The Company is currently ranked 4th in the Indian market with a diverse product portfolio spanning nine therapeutic areas. NPIL's had consolidated Revenues of Rs. 24.7 billion in 2006-07. The Company has R&D capabilities in Custom Chemical Synthesis, Process Innovation, NDDS and Basic Research. It has world-class USFDA-approved formulations and API facilities without any 483s. NPIL has a long track record of successful collaboration with innovator companies. Since 2003, the Company has made significant investments to become a global custom manufacturing organisation ("CMO") for large and medium-sized innovator companies. NPIL is listed in India on the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange. For further information, please mail investorrelations@nicholaspiramal.co.in or visit www.nicholaspiramal.com
