

PRESS RELEASE
8 April 2009

Stora Enso signs Pharma DDS licence agreement with Enestia

Stora Enso has signed a licence agreement with Enestia Belgium NV/SA regarding the contract packaging of pharmaceutical products in Pharma DDS cartons. The increasing availability of contract packaging services enables pharmaceutical companies to run the Pharma DDS packaging solution for their products worldwide.

Enestia is a subsidiary of the Irish company United Drug plc, as is Sharp Corporation in the US which also has a Pharma DDS license agreement with Stora Enso. These license agreements ensure the availability of the Pharma DDS packaging solution across Europe and North America. Stora Enso also has accredited printers to produce the printed and converted blanks of the Pharma DDS carton.

“Our partnership with the two United Drug subsidiaries will significantly broaden the availability of Pharma DDS contract packaging services, now covering the European and North American markets. Logistical and commercial benefits for pharmaceutical brand owners are evident as they can now easily employ the same packaging solution globally. Pharma DDS is targeted for both prescription drugs and over-the-counter products, and it meets the stringent US and European child-resistance demands,” says Ismo Saarinen of Stora Enso.

“As we have broad experience of various packaging concepts, we see the Pharma DDS carton as an extension of our capabilities and offerings using slightly modified existing equipment,” says Ludwig Bastiaansen of Enestia.

The Pharma DDS carton has several features that support the patient's compliance with his or her drug prescription. The carton is convenient and discreet to use, yet it has reached the highest F=1 child-resistance testing result. It has a unique locking mechanism and can be produced in a variety of sizes and versions, which makes it suitable for a wide range of unit dose packaging. Thanks to the effective production technique, a competitive cost level can be achieved for both small and high volume drugs.

Company Facts

Stora Enso is a global paper, packaging and forest products company producing newsprint and book paper, magazine paper, fine paper, consumer board, industrial packaging and wood products. The Group has 32,000 employees and 85 production facilities in more than 35 countries worldwide, and is a publicly traded company listed in Helsinki and Stockholm. Stora Enso's annual production capacity is 12.7 million tonnes of paper and board. In 2008, Stora Enso's sales were EUR 11.0 billion, with an operating profit of EUR 388.4 million. Stora Enso pharmaceutical packaging boards are widely used in cartons for all forms of secondary packaging, and the company has developed a number of packaging concepts tailored to the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. www.storaenso.com, www.storaenso.com/pharma

Enestia has been part of Irish company United Drug plc since April 2007. United Drug plc has a work force of 4,500 employees and annual sales of EUR 1.7 billion. Enestia specialises in the production and packaging of pharmaceutical and healthcare products and has 160 employees. Enestia has ISO 9001 / 2000 certification and works in accordance with cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practices) guidelines for pharmaceuticals and healthcare, as well as HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) for nutritional supplements. The company is also FDA-approved. www.enestia.be

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