

Almirall opens its doors to the pharmaceutical industry to mark the opening of new London headquarters

- New Stockley Park headquarters officially opened by Business Secretary Peter Mandelson
- Office opening comes as Almirall expands in the pharmaceutical market in the United Kingdom, which is ranked fifth in the world and third in Europe
- Almirall UK offers an expanding product portfolio, primarily focussed on dermatology and currently made up of fourteen medicines

Barcelona, 24 April 2009. Almirall, the international pharmaceutical company based in Spain, is pleased to announce the official opening of its new London headquarters, to mark its further expansion into the UK market.

The new offices at Stockley Park, near Heathrow Airport will be home to 50 staff who will have responsibility for the market in the UK and Ireland. The company has a number of dermatology products covering a range of conditions and will be bringing additional new products to the UK market in the near future.

Around 100 guests attended the office opening which was celebrated with a Spanish tapas-style reception attended by Business Secretary Peter Mandelson. He said: *"It is my pleasure to welcome Almirall to the UK. As the Government's strategy, 'Building Britain's Future', states we are committed to helping companies to invest in Britain as well as safeguard the jobs this investment supports. Almirall's decision to expand here is a clear recognition of the UK's strengths as a modern, knowledge based economy, where we have the skills and regulatory environment to compete effectively in high-tech, high value sectors such as pharmaceuticals."*

Based in West London with excellent transport links by road, rail and air, the new headquarters will significantly help Almirall increase its European presence. Apart from Spain, it already has affiliates in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Portugal, plus Austria, Switzerland and Poland through the acquisition of the Hermal operations, a specialised dermatological company based in Germany.

Carlos Gallardo, General Manager UK & Ireland said: *"This is a tremendously exciting moment for Almirall as we continue to strengthen our direct presence in Europe. Our new offices enable us to be well positioned for the growing market in the UK and Ireland, where I am confident we will be able to make an increasing contribution to the improved treatment of patients in the UK. I am delighted to mark the occasion by inviting our partners to today's exciting event"*

The pharmaceutical market in the United Kingdom is ranked fifth in the world and third in Europe in terms of turnover.

Notes to Editors

Portfolio of 14 medicines

Almirall's proprietary research and development (R&D) products, along with those from the company's recent acquisitions, will constitute this affiliate's core product portfolio.

Following the acquisition of a number of products from Shire and the Hermal acquisition, the Almirall UK focus will be dermatological diseases, with its most relevant products being those indicated to treat keratosis actinica: *Solaraze*, and facial hirsutism: *Vaniqa*, eczema and skin infections: *Balneum*, *Balneum Plus*, and *Unguentum*; acne: *Aknemicin*, and *Aknemicin plus*; and lastly *Curatoderm* for psoriasis.

Almirall UK will also be commercialising Almirall's R&D products such as the anti-inflammatory *Preservex* (aceclofenac) and *Almogran* (almotriptan) for the treatment of migraine. All products will be marketed under the Almirall umbrella.

About Almirall

Almirall is an international pharmaceutical company based on innovation and committed to health. Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, Almirall researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed drugs with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing.

The therapeutic areas on which Almirall focuses its research resources are related to the treatment of asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and dermatology.

Almirall is currently present in over 70 countries with direct presence in Europe and Latin America through 11 affiliates.