

## Press Releases by Date

### Pharmaceutical specialist's success commended by First Minister

First Minister Rhodri Morgan has hailed a pharmaceutical company in the Rhymney Valley as 'a great model of hi-tech success', during a visit to the plant in Hengoed on Thursday 21 October.

Norgine is a well-established European pharmaceutical company, which specialises in gastro-intestinal remedies. It employs around 300 people at its manufacturing base in Hengoed, north of Caerphilly, and a further 500 in 15 countries worldwide.

The Welsh Assembly Government supported the company's £8m expansion project at Hengoed last year with a Regional Selective Assistance Grant of £954,000, and sales turnover in the same period increased by more than 20% to £92.3m. Growth at the firm has been dominated by sales of its number one product, a cost-effective drug named MOVICOL, and Hengoed is the main supplier of the product worldwide.

The First Minister said: "This is a prime example of the Assembly Government helping businesses in Wales advance in the global market. With our support, Norgine has invested heavily at its Hengoed complex. It is already paying off, with a steady and consistent rise in demand for its products and the creation of 80 extra jobs.

"Norgine delivers high-quality, well-paid jobs which is exactly what we need to strengthen Wales' economy. I wish them every success in their efforts to break into the US market.

#### NOTES:

- In 2003, 9.1 million packs of MOVICOL were manufactured - an increase of 31% compared with 2002 output.
- A £4m MOVICOL capacity expansion was completed at the end of 2002, which brought Norgine's investment at the Hengoed facility to a total of £8m.
- Currently, work is underway on a £3m upgrade of the non-MOVICOL area of the plant, which is due for completion in 2005.
- Norgine's core focus is on gastro-intestinal products but it is also developing a presence within the area of pain management.

The Managing Director at Norgine Ltd, Hengoed, is Peter Harsant. His contact number is 01443 812183.

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