16 June 2011

Fact sheet
Opening ceremony of UDCA manufacturing unit of "Grindeks"

- On 16 June 2011 a new Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) manufacturing unit of "Grindeks" is unveiled, which meets world-class pharmaceutical industry standards and is certified according to ISO and GMP standards.

- The total amount invested in the project – 6.34 million lats, out of which 2.8 million lats is the co-financing by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In its turn, the "Swedbank" has assigned a long-term loan of 6.2 million euros (~ 4.35 million lats) to "Grindeks", including a bank guarantee to ensure the ERDF.

- Active pharmaceutical ingredient UDCA, which was patented by the Japanese in the 70-ties, is used for production of final dosage forms for the treatment of hepatic and gallstone diseases. It dissolves cholesterol gallstones, and increases hepatocyte membrane stabilizing and resistance functions during harmful exposure, restores damaged hepatocyte membranes, inhibits the abnormal immune response in the liver at cholestatic liver disease.

- UDCA product development and manufacturing process is complex and time consuming. This is related to refining, hydration, replacement, crystallisation and other chemical transformation.

- "Grindeks" carried out the first deliveries of UDCA pilot series to the German pharmaceutical company "Marenis Pharma" in January of 2008. After positive quality assessment, a multi-stage, long-term cooperation agreement was concluded with "Grindeks" in 2009.

- The new manufacturing unit was built to ensure a continuous supply of UDCA to the German pharmaceutical company "Marenis Pharma".

- Manufacturing unit's construction was started in October of 2009. The new manufacturing unit's project was drafted and overseen by the company of the Czech Republic "G.M.Project". Manufacturing unit's construction work carried out a Latvian construction company "Kvadrs" Ltd. with subcontractors.

- The total area of the new UDCA manufacturing unit is 2300 square meters.

- In the new manufacturing unit 35 new job positions are created.

- The world market of UDCA active pharmaceutical ingredient is gradually increasing and now accounts for about 400t a year. In the world there are five manufacturers of this active substance. In 2014 "Grindeks" plans to capture about 15% of UDCA active pharmaceutical ingredient's world market.

The Project „The establishment of Ursodeoxycholic Acid manufacturing unit with the necessary infrastructure" is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).