

# News Release

## Santen to Transfer Marketing of THIOLA Tablets 100 to Merck Hoei

**July 1, 2002** --- Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka; President: Takakazu Morita) and Merck Hoei Ltd. (Chuo-ku, Osaka; President: Katsuhiko Asano) today announced that both companies have agreed on the transfer of marketing of Santen's THIOLA Tablets 100, a metabolic improving and detoxicating agent, to Merck Hoei, effective August 1, 2002.

Under this agreement, Merck Hoei will provide information on THIOLA to medical institutions and collect the drug's post marketing information from August 1, 2002.

THIOLA was originally discovered by Santen and has been marketed by the company in Japan since August 1970 as a metabolic improving and detoxicating agent that improves hepatic functions in patients with chronic hepatic diseases.

Santen set an objective to focus on its ophthalmic and anti-rheumatic disease businesses. On the other hand, Merck Hoei intends to expand its product lines in areas including internal diseases. The transfer of THIOLA will be mutually beneficial for both companies.

### References:

[Details of THIOLA Tablets 100]

Brand name: THIOLA Tablets 100

Active ingredient: Tiopronin

Indications: Improvement of hepatic functions in chronic hepatic diseases, incipient senile cortical cataract and increase of mercury excretion at mercury poisoning

Date of launch: August 1970

Annual sales: Approximately 400 million yen (fiscal year ended March 2002)

[Outlines of the Companies]

**Merck Hoei Ltd.**

Headquarters: Senba Central Building, 2-6-8, Hommachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan  
President: Katsuhiko Asano  
Establishment: 1998  
Paid-in capital: 1,010 million yen (fiscal year ended December 2001)  
Number of employees: 165 (as of December 2001)  
Net sales: 6,963 million yen (fiscal year ended December 2001)  
Business fields: Manufacture and sale of pharmaceuticals

**Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.**

Headquarters: 3-9-19, Shimoshinjo, Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka, Japan  
President: Takakazu Morita  
Establishment: 1890  
Paid-in capital: 6,214 million yen (fiscal year ended March 2002)  
Number of employees: 2,463 (as of March 2002)  
Net sales: 88,966 million yen (fiscal year ended March 2002)  
Business fields: Research, development, import, manufacture and sale of pharmaceuticals

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