

Ranbaxy in tie-up to source raw material for Diovan

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Drug maker Ranbaxy Laboratories is learnt to have partnered another multinational pharmaceuticals company for sourcing active pharmaceutical ingredients, or API, for the generic version of anti-hypertension drug Diovan. Sources said the company had already filed an application with the US regulator, seeking

permission for the partnership.

A detailed email questionnaire sent to Ranbaxy on Monday did not elicit any response.

API is the main pharmaceutical ingredient to manufacture medicine formulations. While generic drug makers are required to file Abbreviated New Drug Applications with the US Food and Drug Administration to seek approvals for formulations, they also have to submit

separate drug master file, providing details of the API used in those formulations.

Investors, as well as other Ranbaxy stakeholders, have been eyeing the launch of the Diovan generic by Ranbaxy for some time. This is because the management, despite the delay in seeking an approval from the regulator, has maintained it retained 180 days of exclusive marketing rights for the drug in the US.

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