

Mail Today, Delhi

Wednesday 12th March 2014, Page: 26

Width: 4.95 cms, Height: 13.14 cms, a4, Ref: pmin.2014-03-12.53.66

Ranbaxy's bid to enter US after ban

DRUGMAKER Ranbaxy Laboratories is in talks with, at least, two companies on sourcing ingredients for a generic version of AstraZeneca Plc's heartburn drug Nexium, a source said, to ensure the pills can be sold in the US.

Washington in January prohibited Ranbaxy from selling drugs in the US using ingredients from one of its plants in northern India due to poor manufacturing practices. Ranbaxy's Ohm Laboratories plant in New Jersey is now its only facility making generics for the US.

Delay in the launch of generic Nexium will have a big impact on the British company's profit. Nexium had global sales last year of \$3.87 billion and US sales of \$2.12 billion. Retaining exclusivity on Nexium in the US beyond the end of May would not only limit a forecast decline in AstraZeneca's 2014 earnings but could also protect bonuses for top management at the British company.

Reuters

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