

< 77 Years of Development of Lek

1935 In 1935, a production plant for small quantities of ethers for pharmaceutical purposes, extracts of medicinal plants, tinctures, galenics, and tablets began to operate in Mengeš. This plant served as the cornerstone of the Lek Site in Mengeš.

1946 On October 31, 1946, the Lek pharmaceutical factory was officially established, with plants in Ljubljana, Mengeš and Hrastnik. To extend the range of products and increase the volume of domestically produced medicines was the first task to undertake as a young company.

1947 From the autumn of 1944 until liberation, the chemical-pharmaceutical laboratory of the sanitary battalion of Slovenia operated in Cnomelj, which was the predecessor of the Lek pharmaceutical factory.

1951 Lek was registered as an import-export company in Yugoslavia.

1953 On November 13, 1957, the first issue of the internal newspaper Kolektiv was brought out, which remains to be one of the main corporate communication tools.

1957 The company's development plan was to produce as many raw materials for medicine as possible and to focus on exports, which is still relevant today.

1962 In 1966, the first veterinary product was registered.

1962 New investments lead to a rapid growth, the headcount has increased, and the level of education has been rising. Lek consolidated its position on the Yugoslav market and penetrated the then Soviet Union market.

1962 By entering into a license agreement with the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., Inc., Lek significantly increased the number of quality products to achieve greater market penetration, especially Eastern European markets. This decision had a major impact on Lek's development in the coming decades.

1971 The foundation stone was laid for a new pharmaceutical and cosmetic factory in the industrial zone Šiška next to Verovškova cesta, where the main part of our operations run today.

1971 We built the Hotel Lek.

1976 The Lavička Collection, the most comprehensive pharmaceutical-medical museum collection in Slovenia was acquired. Since 1986, it has been on display at Lek Headquarters in Ljubljana and has been proclaimed a cultural monument of national importance.

1978 In 1978, the official establishment of the then joint organization (TOZD) Dren in Prevalje took place, where dental products were manufactured.

1988 Lek's operations have been marked by the beginning of the development and manufacturing of potassium clavulanate in Lendava, an important component of our leading broad-spectrum antibiotic.

1992 The beginning of construction works for the PIC at Verovškova 57, where almost all of Lek's operational services were relocated in 1991.

1993 Construction works for the new tablet manufacturing plant in Ljubljana were completed.

1994 In Prevalje, a new manufacturing plant for the production of penicillin products was opened.

1995 Following the adoption of the Ownership Transformation of Companies Act Lek transformed into a joint-stock company.

1998 We have set up a development and semi-industrial laboratory for classical biotechnology and recombinant products, which marks the beginning of our biopharmaceutical journey.

2001 The acquisition of the Rumanian pharmaceutical company PharmaTech was completed and Lek became one of the leading pharmaceutical companies producing antibacterial agents in the region.

2002 2002 was a milestone for Lek. The friendly takeover was completed in November and Lek became a part of the Novartis Group.

2003 Lek joins Sandoz, a generic division of the Novartis Group.

2004 A new manufacturing plant – PORT was opened in Mengeš to produce biopharmaceuticals, the first of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, to further strengthen our own research and development and to contribute to Sandoz's leading position in biopharmaceuticals.

2005 In September, Lek acquired the standard for Certification of Occupational Health and Safety, the OHSAS 18001:1999 certificate of excellence.

2006 In Lendava, a new state-of-the-art packing center and one of two strategic Sandoz packing centers was opened.

2007 In Romania, the foundation stone of the new antibiotics production plant was laid, while in Poland, the cornerstone was laid for one of Lek's largest investment projects – the pharmaceutical manufacturing and logistics center in Strykow.

2008 In Mengeš, one of six Novartis Biopharmaceuticals Development Centers was opened.

2008 A new Quality Control Center with laboratories for testing both Lek and Sandoz products featuring a modern microbiological laboratory was officially opened in Ljubljana.

2009 The new Lendava Packaging Center, which will supply European markets with pharmaceutical products from Sandoz plants all over the world was, officially opened.

2010 Lek organized the first Regional BioCamp for the most promising science students from the region.

2011 The recruitment portal MojeDelo.com (MyJob.com) recognized Lek as the most reputable Slovenian employer. With continuous investment into employee development, Lek reinforces the culture of knowledge, innovation and cooperation.

2012 A ceremony marked 35 years of operation at the Prevalje site manufacturing a wide-spectrum antibiotic.

2013 The digitized Lavička Collection, the most comprehensive pharmaceutical-medical museum in Slovenia, came to life.

2013 The first production facility in Slovenia for drug substances for innovative drug products was opened. Lek thereby brought innovative pharmaceutical production to Slovenia for the first time.

2014 At Biotechnology Mengeš, today playing a key part in Sandoz and Novartis Biopharmaceuticals, new laboratories for the development of finished biopharmaceutical products, quality control and biopharmaceutical technical development.

2015 By signing the Slovenia Diversity Charter, Lek joined more than 7,600 organizations across Europe that understand the positive impact of diversity management.

2016 We celebrated the 15th anniversary of Community Partnership Day. Over the years, we have committed more than 41,200 hours to the local community and helping more than 60 organizations and 12,000 individuals.

2017 Lek was among ten major Slovenian enterprises that signed a declaration of Commitment to Business and Human Rights that entails the integration of the respect for human rights within the fundamental principles of a company.

2018 Solids Lendava celebrated the 10th anniversary of successful operation.

2019 The first fully automated and analytical laboratory was inaugurated at the Development Center Slovenia, the largest of its kind within Novartis.

2020 Lek was the first and only pharmaceutical company in Slovenia that obtained the prestigious international certificate »Top Employer 2020« for the best employer in Slovenia, as well as in Europe and globally.

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2022 The LGBT-Friendly certificate was awarded by the City of Ljubljana to organizations committed to creating an inclusive and diverse environment for LGBT associates.

2023 As part of the global process of spin off Sandoz from Novartis, Lek sets apart the Novartis Innovative Medicines business and transfers it to the newly established Novartis d.o.o. As a Sandoz company, Lek continues to develop, manufacture, and market generics and biosimilars.

CEOs and Presidents of the Board of Management

Prof. Henrik Riko Repič, PhD,
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Stane Žagar
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2. 8. 2017–30. 4. 2019

mag. Robert Ljoljo, MSc.,
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1. 9. 2019– ...