

PRESS RELEASE

Krka receives gold and silver innovation awards

Brdo pri Kranju, 10 September 2024 – To mark the occasion of Innovation Day, the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS) presented annual innovation awards for achievements to Slovenian companies. Krka's researchers won the gold award for tapentadol prolonged-release tablets for relief of severe pain, and the silver award for dabigatran used to treat and prevent thromboembolic events. The awards confirm that Krka with their outstanding experts, top-notch technology, and innovative solutions quickly and steadily supply innovative, quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medicines for the broadest range of patients.

Gold award for medication for relieving severe pain

A gold award went to Krka experts who, by using innovative solutions, developed quality, safe, and efficacious medicine containing tapentadol in the form of tapentadol maleate in innovative pharmaceutical prolonged-release form for relieving severe chronic pain. The active substance was incorporated in prolonged-release tablets preventing non-medicinal use. We integrate sustainable solutions in all stages of product development and production that are used to systematically reduce the environmental impact. This innovation has facilitated the early launch of a more affordable medication.

Silver award for medication used to treat and prevent thromboembolic events

A silver award was presented to Krka researchers for the medication containing dabigatran which significantly improves the possibilities for the treatment and prevention of dangerous thromboembolic events. By way of innovations in the synthesis of the active ingredient and in the finished product, they resolved challenges owing to unfavourable properties of the active substance, and developed a safe, efficacious and high-quality medicine. Optimised manufacturing procedures enable its uninterrupted availability, accessibility and minimal environmental impact.

Our most significant sustainable concerns include product quality and patient safety

At this year's ceremony held under the title '**We have chosen sustainability**', national accolades were awarded for the 22nd year in a row to most innovative companies and other organisations. In the professional part of the programme, Dr Aleš Rotar, member of the Management Board and Director of Pharmaceutical R&D and Production, and Dr Zvone Simončič, Director of Pharmaceutical R&D, discussed key challenges of developing modern generic pharmaceuticals at Krka and the significance of innovation in pharmaceutical industry.

Efforts for sustainability have been the bedrock of our stable growth for all 70 years of existence. Product quality and patient safety are our most significant sustainability concerns without which we would not have gained and maintained the trust of patients and healthcare professionals. Our contribution to high-quality treatment in over 70 countries includes innovative solutions that are the result of cooperation and knowledge of all generations and employees of different backgrounds. We develop and manufacture medicinal products of highest quality at affordable prices and adapt their pharmaceutical forms to patient needs.

<p>We are one of those innovative generic manufacturers investing above average in R&D, around 10% of sales revenue. More than 800 employees have more than 170 new products in the pipeline, and we are also applying new developments to existing brands.</p>

We can only be one of the leading manufacturers of generic medicines if we constantly adapt to changes and look for opportunities for improvement, whereby we take sustainability into account. For a long time, the pharmaceutical industry has not only been developing active substances and medicines, but also new production technologies and complex studies that ensure the appropriate quality, safety and efficacy of the medicine. The best innovation is the one that enables the production of the most modern medicine with the simplest technological process, the lowest costs with a minimum carbon footprint. The greatest innovations are often hidden in the seemingly simplest pharmaceutical forms, such as standard tablets and capsules.

Of course, product innovations are the most important: our main goal and commitment is to supply modern, innovative, high-quality, safe, and efficacious medicines of advanced pharmaceutical forms at affordable prices. In addition to our core offer, which consists of medicines for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, gastrointestinal tract, and the central nervous system, today we also put the development of those medicines at the forefront intended for diseases that (will) cause the most problems in the future. The prevalence of diabetes, cancer and autoimmune diseases is increasing.

We develop innovative medicines in complex pharmaceutical forms to meet patient needs (e.g. modified-release tablets, pellets, dispersible, and bilayer tablets). Single-pill combinations have a special place as they contribute to almost 30% of sales. We were pioneers during the launch of many of them, and we can say that we are the leading company in the region in this regard. By combining two or three active ingredients in one tablet, we have approached patients and made their treatment easier. For the treatment of elevated blood pressure, we were the first in Europe to launch a medicine containing a combination of three active ingredients – perindopril, indapamide and amlodipine.

We manufacture and sell over 17 billion tablets and capsules a year, and without single-pill combinations, we would have to manufacture a good 4 billion more for the same effect. This also contributes to sustainability, as we use fewer excipients for single-pill combinations than we would for several different medicines with one active substance. In addition, we also consume less energy and packaging materials, and also generate savings with transport. So, we reduce our impact on environment and create economic savings. This enables us to be different from competitive generic companies and also from certain originators.

With our actions we aim at contributing directly to the United Nations' target of reducing non-communicable disease mortality by one third by 2030. Therefore, one of our strategic goals is to make medications more accessible to patients, in particular the medications for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.