



MEDIA RELEASE · COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS · MEDIENMITTEILUNG

## Novartis completes divestment program with transfer of Gerber baby foods business

**Basel, September 3 2007** – Novartis has completed the sale of its Gerber baby foods business to Nestlé for USD 5.5 billion, the final step in a divestment program to focus the Group's strategy on healthcare with pharmaceuticals at the core.

Following this final divestment, all Novartis businesses activities will be concentrated on healthcare, areas where the Group has expertise and synergies in addressing the needs of patients and customers. These include innovative pharmaceuticals for human and animal health, vaccines and diagnostics, generics and consumer health products such as over-the-counter (OTC) brands.

### Disclaimer

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements which can be identified by the use of terminology such as "will", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the potential impact of the divestment of Gerber on Novartis AG's net sales, operating income, net income and business generally. Such statements reflect the current plans, expectations, objectives, intentions or views of management with respect to future events, are based on the current beliefs and expectations of management and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Management's expectations could be affected by, among other things, unexpected regulatory actions or delays; competition in general; the general economic and regulatory environment and other risks such as, but not limited to, those referred to in Novartis AG's Form 20-F filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### About Novartis

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in offering medicines to protect health, cure disease and improve well-being. Our goal is to discover, develop and successfully market innovative products to treat patients, ease suffering and enhance the quality of life. We are strengthening our medicine-based portfolio, which is focused on strategic growth platforms in innovation-driven pharmaceuticals, high-quality and low-cost generics, human vaccines and leading self-medication OTC brands. Novartis is the only company with leadership positions in these areas. In 2006, the Group's businesses achieved net sales of USD 37.0 billion and net income of USD 7.2 billion. Approximately USD 5.4 billion was invested in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 100,000 associates and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

###

Novartis Media Relations

**John Gilardi**

Novartis Global Media Relations

+41 61 324 3018 (direct)

+41 79 596 1408 (mobile)

john.gilardi@novartis.com

e-mail: media.relations@novartis.com

Novartis Investor Relations

International

**Ruth Metzler-Arnold** +41 61 324 7944

Katharina Ambühl +41 61 324 5316

Nafida Bendali +41 61 324 3514

Jason Hannon +41 61 324 2152

Thomas Hungerbuehler +41 61 324 8425

Richard Jarvis +41 61 324 4353

North America

**Ronen Tamir** +1 212 830 2433

Jill Pozarek +1 212 830 2445

Edwin Valeriano +1 212 830 2456

e-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com