

# Lupin, Cipla eye UCB's \$1b generic drug unit

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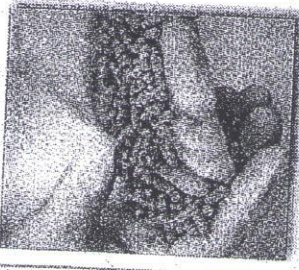
LUPIN, India's second-largest drugmaker by market value, and Cipla are among companies that bid for UCB's US generic drug business, people familiar with the matter said.

The Indian companies submitted first round offers for UCB's Kremers Urban Pharmaceuticals unit in late April, they said, asking not to be identified. The business could be valued at about \$1 bil-

lion, four of the people said.

UCB is trying again to divest the US generics business after a previous \$1.5 billion sale to buyout firms agreed in November fell apart. Indian drugmakers have been considering acquisitions to better compete with market leader Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and boost their presence in key markets like the US.

UCB shares climbed as much as 1.9 per cent and rose 1.5 per cent to €66.08 at 12:58 pm in Brussels.



## Expansion mode

- The Indian companies submitted first round offers in late April
- No assurance that Lupin and Cipla will proceed to the next round of bidding
- Cipla said that it's in discussions on potential collaboration opportunities

There's no assurance suitors such as Lupin and Cipla will proceed to the next round of bidding, and details such as price are

subject to change, the people said. Lupin declined to comment in an emailed statement. Cipla said in an emailed statement it's

"constantly in discussions with multiple parties on potential collaboration opportunities" and can't comment on specific talks.

"We have a broad range of interested parties around the globe," Antje Witte, manager of investor relations at UCB, said by phone. "It's absolutely too early to comment."

The Brussels-based drugmaker is selling Kremers Urban as it focuses on drugs for central nervous system illnesses and immunology. UCB's previous agreement to divest the

generics unit was terminated in December, after the US Food and Drug Administration asked for further studies on its copy of Johnson & Johnson's Concerta pill for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Sun Pharmaceutical, India's biggest drugmaker, agreed last year to acquire domestic rival Ranbaxy Laboratories in an all-stock deal valued at \$3.2 billion at the time. Dr Reddy's Laboratories agreed in April to buy UCB's brands in India for €118 million (\$129 million).

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