BAYER AND GLAXOSMITHKLINE RECEIVE U.S. FDA APPROVABLE LETTER FOR VARDENAFIL

Leverkusen, Germany and London, UK, July 24, 2002: Bayer AG [DAX and NYSE: BAY] and GlaxoSmithKline plc [LSE and NYSE: GSK], announced today that they have received an approvable letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vardenafil, an oral investigational drug under review for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). The drug has been approved by regulatory authorities in several Latin American countries and has been submitted for approval to regulatory agencies in all major markets.

The companies said that the FDA has asked for additional clinical pharmacology studies before granting final approval for vardenafil. A U.S. launch for the product is now projected for 2003.

Wolfgang Plischke, Ph.D., president, Pharmaceutical Division of Bayer HealthCare, Bayer AG, said, “Bayer and GSK are committed to bringing vardenafil to market as quickly as possible, and believe that the compound can provide a new alternative for millions of men.”

Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Form 20-F).The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.