

Biocon-Mylan JV's Biosimilar Drug Portfolio Worth \$33 b

Both companies had signed a JV in 2009 to develop five drugs

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Two years after announcing a joint venture with US-based Mylan, Biocon, in an investor presentation, revealed that its biosimilar drug portfolio has a business potential of \$33 billion (over Rs 1,75,000 crore).

The portfolio is due for expiry by 2015. The company alluded to the market potential in an investor presentation. Biosimilar drugs are generic versions of complex biologic molecules that are developed without any data from the originator company.

In 2009, Biocon partnered with Mylan Inc to develop five complex biosimilar products. Mylan and Biocon had signed a joint venture in 2009 to develop five biosimilar drugs in the cancer and pain segment.

The company will be first launching Trastuzumab or Herceptin, a breast cancer drug patented by



Swiss pharma giant Roche. "Herceptin biosimilar will be launched by the end of 2013 or early 2014 in India, the drug currently is under phase III of clinical trial," said Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

Biocon has announced that it will be developing four other drugs, Pegfilgrastim (sold as Neulasta by Roche), Bevacizumab (sold as Avastin by Roche), Adalimumab (sold as Humira by Abbott) and Eterncept (sold as Enbrel by Pfizer) under this JV. Pharma companies in India are taking chances with biosimilar drugs to leverage risk from the pure generic drugs.