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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Trametinib, the first MEK inhibitor, received U.S. regulatory approval,
JT's licence partner GlaxoSmithKline announced**

A New Drug Application (NDA) submitted in August, 2012, for trametinib in treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations, as detected by an FDA-approved test, has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Trametinib is not indicated for the treatment of patients who have received a prior BRAF inhibitor therapy. Trametinib is the world's first MEK inhibitor, and is to be marketed as Mekinist™ in the United States. Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) (TSE:2914) announced that a statement has been issued to this effect by GlaxoSmithKline plc. (GSK) of London, U.K.

In April 2006, JT licensed trametinib to GSK with the exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize trametinib worldwide.

About trametinib

Trametinib was jointly discovered by JT and Dr. Toshiyuki Sakai, a professor at Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine. MEK as MAPK/ERK Kinase is a key component of the signaling pathway that regulates cell growth. By specifically binding to the activity of MEK, trametinib results in an inhibition of cellular growth.

About melanoma

Melanoma is a type of cancer which develops when melanocytes (pigment cells in the skin) become malignant and start to grow and divide at an abnormally quick pace, spreading into the surrounding surface layer of skin. When melanoma is diagnosed early, it is generally a curable disease. However, when it spreads to other parts of the body, it is the deadliest and most aggressive form of skin cancer.

About BRAF V600 mutation

The BRAF gene makes BRAF protein which is a key component of the RAS-RAF pathway involved in normal cell growth and survival, and its mutation is associated

with many cancers. Mutations that keep the BRAF protein in an active state may cause excessive signaling in the pathway, leading to uncontrolled cell growth and metastasis. The BRAF V600E and V600K mutations of BRAF protein is observed in approximately 50% of the patients with metastatic melanoma.

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Japan Tobacco Inc. is a leading international tobacco product company. Its products are sold in over 120 countries and its internationally recognized brands include Winston, Camel, Mevius/Mild Seven and Benson & Hedges. With diversified operations, JT is also actively present in pharmaceuticals, beverages and processed foods. The company's revenue was ¥2.120 trillion (US\$22,543 million()) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013.*

**Translated at the rate of ¥94.05 per \$1, as of March 29, 2013*

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