



EyeTechCare Wins First Prize in the 2010 Innovative Medical Technology Competition

EyeTechCare's EyeOP1 medical device is a groundbreaking innovation for the treatment of glaucoma and will be available at the year end

Rillieux-la-Pape (France) – June 23, 2010 – EyeTechCare, which is developing non-invasive therapeutic medical devices for the ophthalmological market based on the use of ultrasound, has won first prize in the 2010 Innovative Medical Technology competition organized by France's Alliance for Biological and Medical Engineering (Alliance pour le Génie Biologique et Médical – AGBM). The competition is open to small and medium-sized companies developing products that have the potential to bring major advances for the healthcare system.

The prize was awarded to EyeTechCare for its development of the EyeOP1 medical device, a novel and non-invasive treatment for glaucoma that is based on the use of high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFUs). HIFU technology allows ambulatory treatment, ensuring it is targeted, speedy, efficacious, well tolerated and non-operator dependent, as well as limiting the cost and the risk for the patient. EyeOP1 will be on the market in late 2010 or early 2011.

Glaucoma, which is characterized by a buildup of intraocular pressure, is the second most important cause of blindness in the world and there is still no wholly effective and definitive treatment for it. Seventy million people worldwide suffer from the condition, and that figure is constantly rising due to the aging of the population, according to the International Glaucoma Association.

The AGBM prize honors the quality of the work performed by the prize-winning small businesses, the degree of innovation relative to comparable devices, and the real usefulness of the product in response to a market need. Prize-winners benefit from the public recognition of this award, which is the only one of its kind in the biomedical field, and also receive strong support from the AGBM in the form of competitive studies, presentation videos, and better dissemination of their corporate profiles to the media and potential customers.

"For our partners, especially our financial partners, this prize confirms that our technology is of a high level and that it could potentially yield a groundbreaking innovation for treating a rapidly-growing public health problem," observed the Chairman of EyeTechCare, Fabrice Romano. "With this prize, we are going to secure greater recognition and credibility in the eyes of our target market, since the quality of the innovations submitted was assessed by a very experienced jury."

"We were really taken with the technology developed by EyeTechCare, since it brings the hope of a solution to a worldwide public health problem," explained the President of the IMT jury, Mathias Fink, a member of the French Academy of Sciences and the Collège de France. "Furthermore, EyeTechCare has succeeded in developing this device in less than two years and will soon offer medical practitioners an alternative therapeutic approach for the treatment of glaucoma."

EyeTechCare expects to confirm the preliminary results of the device's efficacy by launching it onto the market towards the end of 2010 or early in 2011 and by embarking on a multi-center international study between 2011 and 2013. This study will enable clinical data to be acquired on a large number of patients and over a sufficient period of time.



About the AGBM

The Alliance for Biological and Medical Engineering is an association whose aim is to bring together people involved in medical technology. Its members are agencies and companies operating in this area and they are grouped into three sections: the first concerns education and upstream research; the second covers the industrial sector and technology transfer; and the third represents users of medical technology, clinicians, hospital doctors, biomedical engineers, and so on.

The AGBM was created 15 years ago and its activities are centered around the promotion of scientific, technological and medical information, the monitoring of technical expertise, and the organization of the Innovative Medical Technology competition.

About the IMT competition

Since 2000 the AGBM has been organizing the Innovative Medical Technology competition for the purpose of encouraging the development of medical devices resulting from the most advanced technology and corresponding to the needs of users and healthcare professionals, as well as for promoting the dynamism and creativity of developments in the biomedical sector.

This competition is designed to recognize and promote the best products that any company in the medical technology sector recently launched onto the market, or is about to. It takes account not only of scientific and technological innovation criteria but also of economic criteria, as well as of the degree to which the product responds to health market needs (clinical interest and maintenance-safety).

About EyeTechCare

EyeTechCare is developing non-invasive therapeutic medical devices for the ophthalmology market based on High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU). HIFU technology allows ambulatory and rapid treatment to be performed, thereby limiting the cost and the risk for the patient.

The company's first device, EyeOP1, is for the treatment of glaucoma, a disease that affects about 2% of the world population and can lead to blindness. None of the therapies currently on the market provide a satisfactory cure for glaucoma. The treatments offered up to now have been constructed around eye drops, lasers and surgery, but they have limitations (low compliance, dependence on the operator, patient relapse, technical difficulties, and so on). EyeOP1 has been undergoing clinical trials in Lyon since March this year and is due to be launched onto the market in 2011. The device utilizes the UC³ (ultrasound circular cyclo-coagulation) procedure, which makes it possible to reduce intraocular pressure by partially and accurately destroying the ciliary bodies that produce aqueous humor.

Based in Rillieux-la-Pape, near Lyon, EyeTechCare was founded in 2008 by three experienced managers with complementary expertise in the medical, industrial and regulatory fields. The company has submitted five patent applications in conjunction with a Lyon-based laboratory (Unit 556) of Inserm, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research. Since 2008, the founders have secured EUR 500,000 in aid and subsidies from OSEO (the French innovation promotion agency), as well as official recognition from a number of state technology authorities.

For more information, go to <http://www.eyetechcare.com>

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