

## News: Wellington Partners and Renaissance PME finance ophthalmology specialist Sensimed

Munich, January 8, 2008. In its first round of financing, Swiss-based Sensimed AG, a manufacturer of medical devices in the field of ophthalmology, is receiving CHF8 million (around €4.8 million) from lead investor Wellington Partners as well as co-lead investor Vinci Capital through its funds Renaissance PME and MonaLisa/Swisscom joined by Blue Ocean Ventures. Sensimed has developed a new, patented diagnostic test system that will significantly improve identification and treatment of glaucoma. According to the WHO, some 70 million people worldwide suffer from glaucoma, the second-most frequent cause of blindness. Glaucoma is caused by an increase in intraocular pressure (IOP), which can occur both during the day as well as at night with a high individual variation. While repeated single measurements of intraocular pressure outside of typical doctors' office hours have thus far been highly labor-intensive and often required hospitalization, Sensimed now enables non-invasive, precise and cost-effective measurements around the clock - both in glaucoma patients as well as in individuals at high risk for the disease. Sensimed's core product CLS IOP-24 comprises microprocessor-equipped contact lenses that continuously measure intraocular pressure without side effects, and transmit the data to a portable recorder via telemetry. "We are convinced that the analysis of intraocular pressure curves obtained through continuous measurements will play a key role in the prevention of glaucoma and in devising custom-tailored therapies for patients," says Sensimed CEO Jean-Marc Wismer. This experienced entrepreneur has played a crucial role in building the company and became its CEO in 2007. Sensimed was established in 2003 as a spin-off from the renowned EPFL Technical University in Lausanne. The company will be utilizing the funds from the first round of financing primarily for commercial production of the CLS IOP-24 system and to build a sales and distribution channel: "Our technology ideally complements and expands existing methods for measurement of intraocular pressure," says Wismer. With its diagnostic test system, Sensimed is addressing a growing medical need: In the United States alone there are 10 million glaucoma related doctors' visits each year; and a further 30 million people are, based on their age and other factors, considered to be at high risk for glaucoma. "The Sensimed management team recognized the medical need and devised a highly innovative solution that is a medical breakthrough. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities that the Sensimed technology offers and expect the method to play a crucial role in diagnosing glaucoma in the coming years," say Prof. Erich Schlick, General Partner at Wellington Life Science " Sensimed is a perfect illustration of the great innovation power of Switzerland in medical devices which requires not only in depth knowledge of such various fields as material, sensors and RFID but also the faculty to optimize the system across these technologies" says Olivier Tavel , managing Partner of Vinci Capital. Upon closing of the financing round both Schlick and Tavel will both take a seat on the Sensimed AG supervisory board.