



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2008

Symetis closes CHF 4 million financing to initiate first-in-man study of StentValve, an innovative percutaneous valve replacement system

Lausanne, Switzerland - October 20, 2008. Symetis SA, a privately held company developing an innovative percutaneous valve replacement program, announces today that it has raised CHF 4 million from Wellington Partners and existing investors Truffle Capital, Novartis Venture Fund and Aravis Venture to finance a first-in-man study of its StentValve™.

Symetis's development of the StentValve™ is based upon the pioneering work of Prof. Ludwig K. von Segesser (CHUV, Lausanne). The uniqueness of the StentValve™ is its self-positioning design, giving the physician unmatched positioning tolerance and ease of use. It lends itself to both trans-apical and trans-femoral delivery routes. Symetis is currently completing pre-clinical studies and anticipates a first-in-man clinical trial by mid-2009.

Valve replacement is a \$1 billion market, currently addressed by a limited number of large companies offering "surgical" products. A major portion of this market is expected to be captured over the next 10 years by percutaneous products which can be delivered using catheters without open heart surgery, thereby potentially reducing hospital stays, co-morbidity and costs. While first generation products are already commercially approved for "non-operable" patients, next generation products such as Symetis's StentValve™ will open this therapeutic approach to a wider range of indications.

Erich Schlick, MD, General Partner at Wellington Partners, commented, "Symetis has a unique technology backed by strong intellectual property, a seasoned management team and a sound business strategy. We are confident that Symetis will be among the leading companies in this competitive but fast growing market."

Jacques R. Essinger, PhD, CEO of Symetis, added: "Symetis's strategy has been to focus first on the trans-apical delivery route, building upon the broad valve replacement experience of the world-renowned cardiac surgeons on our Clinical Advisory Board. This approach has provided us today with a clear technological and IP edge over the competition. The new participation of Wellington Partners and the continuous support of Truffle Capital, Novartis Venture Fund and Aravis Venture are a strong endorsement of our strategy."

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About Symetis

Symetis SA (www.symetis.com) is a Swiss start-up developing innovative valve replacement solutions. Based in Lausanne, the company is financed by leading European venture capital firms, which include Truffle Capital (www.truffle.com), Novartis Venture Fund (www.novartisfund.novartis.com), Aravis Venture (www.aravis.ch) and Wellington Partners (www.wellington-partners.com).