

New WP III Life Science Fund closes its fourth investment

Wellington Partners finances ophthalmology specialist Sensimed

Munich, December 17, 2007. 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 fund Renaissance Technologies 2 joined by Blue Ocean Capital.

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," says Prof. Erich Schlick, General Partner at Wellington Life Science. Upon closing of the financing round, Schlick will take a seat on the Sensimed AG supervisory board.

With Sensimed, the Wellington Partners III Life Science Fund is financing its third medical technology player within a few months and its fourth portfolio company overall. The fund is open until year end for subscription by institutional and private investors (www.wellington-private-clients.de).

Further information about Sensimed AG is available at: www.sensimed.ch

About Wellington Partners

Wellington Partners (www.wellington-partners.com) ranks among the most successful pan-European venture capital firms. With currently €800 million under management, the firm invests into opportunities throughout Europe that have the potential to become global leaders, mainly in the areas of Information Technology, Media Convergence and Life Sciences. Since 1991, Wellington has established a worldwide network to support its entrepreneurs in building companies on a global scale.

Wellington Partners has invested in more than 100 companies in Europe and Israel, including publicly traded Actelion, Wavelight and XING, successful privately held companies like Alando (acquired by eBay) and Grandis (acquired by Novartis) as well as current portfolio companies like immatics, mtm laboratories, Oxford Immunotech and BMDSys.

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