

Newsletter December 2000

Press Release

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IBA sells PET Cyclotron to the Asan Medical Center, the largest General Hospital in Korea.

IBA announces today that it has sold a Cyclone 18/9 PET Cyclotron to the Asan Medical Center, Korea. The contract was signed this week.

Situated South-East of Seoul and founded in June 1989, the Asan Medical Center has more than 1500 beds and is the largest General Hospital in Korea. The new Cyclone 18/9 PET Cyclotron will be specifically used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic imaging using PET (PET = Positron Emission Tomography). The Cyclone 18/9 will be delivered to the Asan Medical Center end of March 2001 and is scheduled to become operational mid-2001.

As Dr Hee Kyung Lee, Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department, Asan Medical Center, pointed out "We are particularly impressed by IBA's top-level technological expertise in radioisotope-producing cyclotrons, the high-quality performance of the Cyclone 18/9 and IBA's commitment to customer service. In this case, we had specific ergonometical needs regarding installation of the Cyclone 18/9. IBA teams have completely met all our particular requirements."

Measuring metabolic human cell activity rather than producing static images of the body's anatomy or structure as is the case with other conventional imaging methods, PET is a new and unique technique used to detect cancer at a very early stage with unmatched precision. It is also used to follow up the effects of treatment, thus allowing effective patient monitoring.

Because of these decisive advantages, PET helps save lives and provide people with better healthcare. It also allows significant Social Security savings to be made in the global management of cancer. It is therefore not surprising that investments in PET systems are increasing at worldwide level, and in particular in Korea.

"This additional Cyclone 18/9 sale to Korea confirms the record year IBA is experiencing with regard to Cyclotron sales in Asia", said Jean-Claude Delobel, Chief Executive Officer IBA. "Needs in medical imaging using PET are undoubtedly on the increase and IBA is well positioned to meet specific customer requirements, also in the future".

This year alone more than 100 new PET scanners have been sold around the world and each one of these scanners needs imaging agents produced by cyclotrons such as those from IBA.

IBA is at the forefront of technological developments in PET and intends to maintain its leadership position currently amounting to 60% market share in this area in Korea. To this end, IBA works closely together with its local distributor Hae Dong, a leading specialist in radiotherapy and nuclear medicine systems in Korea. Trained specifically by IBA, Hae Dong's marketing and technical support force numbers more than 40 experts, all positioned strategically around the country.

With more than 1100 employees at 47 different sites in 12 countries on 3 Continents, IBA is a recognized world leader in the areas of Sterilization and Ionization, Advanced Radiotherapy and Radioisotopes. Listed on the Brussels Stock Exchange since June 1998, IBA has tripled its sales in the first half of 2000 to reach 111 MEUR. Listed on the new pan-European Stock Exchange EURONEXT, the IBA share is indexed on NEXT 150.

Today, the IBA Radioisotopes Business Unit accounts for 6% of the total IBA sales figure and focuses on the commercialization of cyclotrons producing radioisotopes for medical imaging and cancer therapy using radioactive implants (brachytherapy).

IBA Radioisotopes is also actively developing centers for the distribution of FDG, the main PET radiopharmaceutical used in cancer diagnosis and which allows more accurate and precise diagnosis of tumors at an early stage and thus more effective treatment monitoring.

This year, the number of orders received by IBA for radioisotope-producing cyclotrons is exceptional. The sale of a Cyclone 18/9 to Korea confirms this trend and reinforces IBA's unparalleled strategic positioning in PET, in new markets such as Korea, where needs in the medical imaging field are undoubtedly on the increase.

Additional information can be obtained from:
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Further information on IBA is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:
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