

Newsletter June 2000

Press Release

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IBA ACQUIRES PROTON THERAPY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

On Wednesday, May 31 2000, IBA signed an agreement with Tenet Healthcare Corporation (THC : NYSE, PSE), Santa Barbara, USA, clinching its acquisition of Proton Therapy Corporation of America (PTCA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tenet headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Founded in 1995, the PTCA is dedicated to develop and promote proton therapy as the treatment of choice for cancer, with the expectation of significantly increasing the cure rates and improving cancer control. By acquiring PTCA, IBA consolidates its strategy of promoting IBA proton therapy systems in the USA and the rest of the world. Once FDA approval on the system has been obtained, IBA will be able to pursue its development of proton therapy centers via PTCA using internal or external financial resources or forming new alliances.

The acquisition of PTCA by IBA follows a decision by Tenet's management to divest non-core assets and concentrate on its principal business of operating acute care hospital networks in the United States. As part of this strategy, Tenet has also divested non-network hospitals, physician practices, home health agencies and other non-core assets over the past 18 months.

" Our decision to own and run PTCA is motivated by our ambition to accelerate and drive future business in the proton therapy field in anticipation of the FDA approval ", emphasized Pierre Mottet, Chairman of the Executive Committee, IBA. " Under the terms of the agreement, IBA will become a preferred supplier to Tenet for various IBA products and services wherever and whenever possible".

Tenet also wished to be in a position to realize the holding of around 10% which it has had in IBA since 1997.

With a view to maintaining the stable core of shareholders Belgian Anchorage, which brings together the management and employee holdings in IBA, has decided to exercise the pre-emptive right which it has under the shareholders' agreement concluded in June 1998 with Tenet, IRE, UCL and Sopartec. This transaction - which was concluded at a price lower than the current one and following which Belgian Anchorage now holds more than 37% of the IBA capital - demonstrates the confidence which the management of IBA has in its growth prospects.

Tenet Healthcare, through its subsidiaries, owns and operates 111 acute care hospitals with more than 27,000 beds and numerous other health care services. The company employs about 107,000 people serving communities in 17 states.

With 1150 people working on 47 sites in 12 different countries on 3 continents, IBA is a global provider of innovative solutions for health and well-being.

Leveraging its expertise in the technologies of particle acceleration, advanced physics and chemistry, IBA is pioneer and leader in each of its chosen markets: Advanced Radiotherapy, Radioisotopes, Sterilization & Ionization comprising sterilization of medical products, analytical laboratory testing, food safety and enhancement of materials.

In the area of Advanced Radiotherapy (22% of sales in 1999), IBA is involved in the production of high precision cancer treatment equipment, such as the IBA proton therapy system, the MM 50 Racetrack and dosimetry systems.

Listed on the Brussels Stock Exchange, IBA's sales figures reached EUR 142 million in 1999.

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Further information on IBA is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:
<http://www.iba-worldwide.com>.