

Newsletter April 2001

Press Release

Contact: Vivienne Gaskell
Vice President
Corporate Communications
Ion Beam Applications
Tel 32 10 47 59 71
E-mail : info-worldwide@iba.be

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
April 24, 2001.

IBA acquires 46% of RadioMed Corporation, USA, providing irradiation services for an innovative FDA-approved cancer treatment product

Louvain-la-Neuve, April 24, 2001 - IBA announced today that it has taken a 46 % equity stake in RadioMed Corporation, a young company based in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, USA, which has invented and patented a new generation of linear Palladium-103 (Pd-103) implants involving a fine coiled wire design for treatment of prostate cancer and other types of localized cancer in the future.

Under the terms of the agreement, IBA acquires 46% of RadioMed with the option of purchasing the rest of the company after the launch of the new product scheduled for early 2002. The key managers of RadioMed remain in control of the company and the RadioMed Board is joined by Sabine de Voghel, President of the IBA Radioisotopes Business Unit, and Yves Jongen, Chief Research Officer of IBA. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

In partnering with IBA, RadioMed will gain access to the unique cyclotron technology it requires to irradiate its product with proton beams. For IBA, the alliance with RadioMed reinforces its strategy of moving further down the value chain to provide services and break into the brachytherapy market with revolutionary medical devices. IBA will provide technical expertise and make funds available for RadioMed's further product development.

"This is a perfect business fit for us", emphasized Piran Sioshani, CEO & President of RadioMed Corporation. "IBA is the only company capable of making the cyclotron with the high-intensity external beam we need to manufacture our new product which is specifically designed to treat prostate cancer. Also, we can benefit from IBA's technical expertise and support in order to extend the product into other markets, continuing our product development."

"This acquisition represents a major strategic move," said Sabine de Voghel, President of IBA Radioisotopes. "We are the sole provider of cyclotrons fully dedicated to the production of Palladium-103 used in brachytherapy and by virtue of the acquisition of RadioMed, we are now becoming a service provider and servicing directly the needs of patients and the medical community."

Brachytherapy is a procedure by which a radioactive source is implanted within a cancerous tumor and the radiation treats the tumor from the inside. One of the key radioisotope sources used in brachytherapy is Palladium-103 with a half-life of 17 days.

RadioMed's product is revolutionary in that it involves a fine coiled wire design which has significant advantages over conventional brachytherapy implants. In a highly efficient and cost-effective manufacturing process, the wire is irradiated by the IBA cyclotron, coiled and then simply cut to size for implant in the patient.

At the end of 2000, RadioMed received FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approval for the product for safe treatment of prostate cancer. Prostrate brachytherapy is reimbursed in the USA by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies.

As a result of the acquisition by IBA, RadioMed will become the key user of IBA's newly constructed facility in Fleurus, Belgium, which is equipped with a new type of high-power external beam cyclotron and provides irradiation and radioisotope services.

Founded in 1997, Radiomed has a two-fold mission: to offer innovative brachytherapy products with improved safety and effectiveness, and to expand brachytherapy indications beyond the prostate market to treating, for example, breast cancer, eye melanoma and skin cancer.

With more than 1300 employees at 49 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. IBA is listed on the Brussels Stock Exchange since June 1998 and indexed on NEXT 150. The IBA share is part of the BEL 20 and is listed on the new pan-European Stock Exchange EURONEXT. In 2000, IBA achieved a total sales figure of 236 million EUR and a net current result per share of 0.95 EUR.

The Business Unit IBA Radioisotopes focuses on the commercialization of cyclotrons producing radioisotopes for medical imaging and cancer therapy using radioactive implants. Following the acquisition of Eastern Isotopes, Inc. in February 2001 a US leader in FDG production and distribution, this new partnership with RadioMed reflects further consolidation of IBA's Radioisotope expansion strategy, this time in the field of brachytherapy as a service provider.

Additional information can be obtained from:
Vivienne Gaskell, Vice President, Corporate Communications
Tel. : + 32 10 47 59 71
E-mail : info-worldwide@iba.be.

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