

Information to the Press

IBA CYCLOTRON IN THE LIMELIGHT OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

Santiago de Chili – October 2, 2002

The IBA “Cyclone 18/9” cyclotron stars at the World Congress taking place at the Casa Piedra Convention Center, Santiago de Chili, until 4th October. The presentation of a real, “life” cyclotron at a conference is the shock event of this global forum — as well as an historic first. The highest authorities in the country, including the President of the Republic’s Delegate Minister, paid tribute to it at last Sunday’s official opening.

During 5 days, the 22 t cyclotron, measuring 2.22 m tall and 2.00 m in diameter, will be seen and examined by the 2,500 delegates, essentially specialist doctors, scientists and potential clients from all over the world. This year’s Congress is reinforced by the joint participation of the Latin-American Regional Nuclear Medicine Congress (*Alasbinn*), in the form of a major contingent of Latin-American specialists. So this was certainly the right moment for IBA to demonstrate its expertise in this part of the world where plans are made for reaching the level of the most advanced countries in nuclear medicine.

After the conference, the cyclotron will be installed at the *Centro de Estudios Nucleares La Reina*, on the outskirts of Santiago, at the foot of the Andes. This medical/university campus was chosen by the client, *La Comision Chilena de Energia Nuclear (CCHEN)*.

Dedicated to Positron Emission Tomography (PET), the “Cyclone 18/9” will be supplying some hospitals with radioisotopes. Most in demand is the renowned FDG, which in just a few years has turned out to be the leading detector for cancerous tumours. It will also be helping doctors to refine their diagnoses, particularly in pediatrics, cardiology and neurology. Equipped with a special technical line-up, the “Cyclone 18/9” will also be used for research and teaching.

IBA’s “Cyclone 18/9” makes Chile the second country in the region to be equipped with this ultra modern technology. Brazil has been using an IBA “Cyclone 30” for several years.

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This feature event at the World Congress would not have been possible without the support of HRH Prince Philippe, who headed a delegation of the BFTB in Santiago last April. During his visit, the Prince also chaired a conference devoted to an application for Rhodotrons™ (X-ray/electron beams) in the field of food safety. In addition, representatives of AWEX and of the Belgian Embassy in Chile have made a significant contribution to the success of the operation in this distant country, by supplying vital information and facilitating contacts.

PET is a leading-edge, non-invasive investigative technique that makes it possible to observe cellular activity within tissue. Since its launch in the United States in the early 80s, it has been saving thousands of lives each year.

World demand for cyclotrons for the production of FDG is growing sharply, and IBA has a major share of this market. For IBA, this means that its cyclotron production has almost tripled for 2001, 2002 and 2003, compared with its average production during its first 12 years of operation. IBA is also developing an FDG distribution network in the USA and Europe, to meet growing demand from hospitals whose traffic does not justify the acquisition of a cyclotron.

The “World Federation of Nuclear Medicine & Biology” organises its World Congresses every 4 years in a different country. For its 8th Congress, the organisers had chosen the theme “Nuclear Medicine at the Beginning of the Third Millennium”, a theme looking towards the future that justifies the featuring of a System like the “Cyclone 18/9”.

About IBA

IBA is the world leader in the field of particle accelerators for nuclear medicine and industry. Their development and application has brought IBA to the forefront in the fight against cancer, whether in diagnosis (PET/FDG) or treatment (Protontherapy and Brachytherapy). IBA is world leader too in the industrial sterilization and ionisation markets. IBA also occupies key positions in the food safety and mail sanitization markets. IBA operates over 50 sites in 12 countries.

IBA (Ion Beam Applications, S.A.:IBOAt.BR) is quoted on EURONEXT, the Pan-European stock exchange, and is listed in the NEXT 150 and incorporated in the NextEconomy market sector.

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