



Press Release |

IBA selected for expansion of the Institut Curie's Orsay Proton Therapy Center

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Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, November 17, 2006 – IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.: Reuters IOBAAt.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB) announced today that the Institut Curie's board of directors has chosen the IBA/Besix consortium to expand the Proton Therapy Center at its Orsay branch (Essonne, France). The Institute has authorized its president, Dr. Claude Huriet, to sign the agreement between now and November 30, 2006, as soon as certain technical and contractual details can be approved.

For the purpose of this new proton therapy project, IBA has formed a consortium with Besix. IBA will supply the proton therapy equipment, and Besix will construct the proton therapy building extension and a new medical wing. The agreement also includes a long-term service and maintenance contract.

The Proton Therapy Center of the Institut Curie-Orsay, which has treated over 3,500 patients, is one of the world's most highly reputed centers for proton therapy treatment and research. The project team subjected candidates to a very exacting and professional selection process with a view to integrating the new extension with the existing treatment rooms.

The Proton Therapy Center expansion will result in a major enhancement of treatment options. In addition to a new cyclotron, to be connected to the two existing, stationary treatment rooms, it will add a new isocentric gantry treatment room intended primarily for children with cancer.

The isocentric gantry for the new treatment room is a metal structure that stands at around 10 meters and weighs more than 100 tons. It is used to rotate the radiation delivery apparatus around the patient and can target the cancerous tumor with on the order of 1 millimeter precision.

Because of IBA's know-how and experience in constructing proton therapy centers and the Institute's extremely exacting specifications, the Orsay center's current treatment operations should be interrupted for only a few weeks, in order to inconvenience patients as little as possible. The new extension will make it possible to increase the number of patients treated annually from 350 to around 600 patients each year.

The Proton Therapy Center at Institut Curie-Orsay is the eleventh center in the world to choose IBA. Coming on the heels of last June's announcement of a new proton therapy center for Germany's University Hospital of Essen, this will be IBA's second clinical center in Europe. With over 60 percent market share, IBA is the uncontested leader in the proton therapy market.



Press Release |

The equipment to be supplied by IBA is valued at around EUR 30 million. While the contract will still be signed this year, it will have no financial impact on IBA's performance in 2006 and little impact in 2007. It should essentially affect only fiscal 2008 and 2009. The center's extension will be operational in less than three years.

"By acquiring the latest generation proton therapy equipment, thanks to major financial assistance from the French Ministry of Health, the Institut Curie is significantly strengthening its position as a leading edge hospital on the European scale," said Institute president Dr. Claude Huriet.

"2006 is clearly a big year for proton therapy. After signing two contracts in June to provide this most sophisticated cancer treatment technology to the University of Pennsylvania and the University Hospital of Essen, we are thrilled at the prospect of expanding the proton therapy center for such a prestigious institution as the Institut Curie, and of extending the unique advantages of proton therapy to an even greater number of patients in Europe," said IBA CEO Pierre Mottet.



Press Release |

ABOUT THE INSTITUT CURIE

The Institut Curie is a private foundation combining **France's largest cancer research center and a leading edge hospital** that has pioneered many treatments and works to disseminate medical innovations at the national and international level. It boasts one of Europe's leading radiation technology platforms, with six high energy apparatuses, a tomotherapy installation in progress, a proton therapy center, and a suite of brachytherapy techniques. Founded in 1909 at the instigation of Marie Curie to provide "fundamental research on innovative care," it has remained in the vanguard. The Institut Curie unites 2,000 researchers, doctors, and caregivers in a single goal: to overtake cancer. Website: www.curie.fr.

ABOUT IBA

IBA delivers solutions of a unique precision in the fields of **cancer diagnosis and therapy**. The company also offers sterilization and ionization solutions to improve the hygiene and safety of everyday life. IBA is listed on the pan-European stock exchange EURONEXT, is integrated into the NextEconomy market segment and belongs to the BelMid index.

Website: <http://www.iba-worldwide.com>.

ABOUT BESIX

Besix is Belgium's largest construction group. It belongs to the Besix Group, which is active in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Besix has developed expertise in medical sector projects. It has built a turnkey cardiovascular hospital in Bratislava, Slovakia. It has just finished a 300-bed hospital in Kinshasa, Congo, and, together with three partners, is starting construction on the ISPPC hospital in Charleroi, Belgium. In 2005 the Besix Group recorded sales of over 1 billion euros. Website:

www.besix.com.

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