# Press release



# A crucial step towards IMPT\* at Westdeutsches Protonentherapiezentrum Essen

WPE Begins Patient Treatments with Pencil Beam Scanning

**Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, April 30, 2014** - IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A., EURONEXT), the world's leading provider of proton therapy solutions for the treatment of cancer, announced today that Westdeutsches Protonentherapiezentrum Essen (WPE) had begun patient treatments with Pencil Beam Scanning (PBS).

WPE is the latest of seven centers treating cancer patients with IBA's Pencil Beam Scanning, the most precise form of Proton Therapy. PBS enables Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT), allowing clinicians to precisely target a malignant tumor by controlling both the intensity and the spatial distribution of the dose to the millimeter to provide patients the most efficient and effective treatment. Today, WPE is the sole Proton Therapy center in Europe that is able to offer to its patients both PBS and Broad Beam delivery methods for improved clinical flexibility.

IBA is leading the way for the development and deployment of clinical PBS worldwide, having equipped over half of the PBS centers worldwide. By the end of 2014, eight more IBA centers are expected to treat with PBS, and within two years, twenty IBA-equipped proton therapy centers will have PBS treatment capabilities. This is a crucial step towards IMPT which enables to provide advanced radiation therapy for cancer care.

The first PBS treatments at WPE were successfully delivered with a PBS-dedicated nozzle in a gantry treatment room for the local cancer treatment of a 54 year old male patient with a malignant tumor in the pelvis.

**Prof. Dr. med. Beate Timmermann, medical director of the WPE facility at the University Hospital Essen stated:** Due to the new treatment room, we've moved a great step forward to helping a larger number of cancer patients with tumors in very sensitive areas such as the head, spine or pelvis. Our goal is to finally treat about 1.000 patients per year in the future – and we are now already looking forward to the opening of the next rooms.

**Olivier Legrain, IBA CEO added:** Being able to deliver Pencil Beam Scanning is a major milestone for clinical centers. Experience at other customer sites show that PBS really makes proton therapy treatment easier and more accurate. It increases significantly the number of clinical indications that can benefit from proton therapy.

**Luk Herremans, IBA VP Sales EMEA, shared:** "There is an urgency to open additional proton centers around Europe to make this extraordinary cancer care modality accessible to more patients. Recent reports show that proton therapy would be beneficial for up to 20% of the patients treated with conventional radiation therapy. It represents thousands of patients in Germany.

* Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy	
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#### **About Proton Therapy**

Proton Therapy is considered the most advanced and targeted cancer treatment due to its superior dose distribution and fewer side effects. Protons deposit the majority of their effective energy within a precisely controlled range, directly within the tumor, sparing healthy surrounding tissue. Higher doses can be delivered to the tumor without increasing the risk of side effects and long-term complications, thereby improving patient outcomes and quality of life. <a href="https://www.iba-protontherapy.com">www.iba-protontherapy.com</a>

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Today, more than half of proton therapy clinical facilities worldwide are IBA systems. This includes 17 proton therapy centers in operation and 10 additional centers under development. Over 25,000 patients have been treated on IBA equipment – more than on all major competitive installations combined.

#### **About IBA**

IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.) is a cancer diagnostics and treatment equipment company, and the worldwide technology leader in the field of proton therapy, the most advanced form of radiotherapy available today.

The Company's primary expertise lies in the development of next generation proton therapy technologies that provide oncology care providers with premium quality services and equipment. IBA's proton therapy solutions are scalable and adaptable, offering universal full scale proton therapy centers as well as next generation compact, single room solutions. IBA also focuses on the development and supply of dosimetry solutions for Quality Assurance of medical equipment and increased patient safety as well as particle accelerators for medical and industrial applications.

Headquartered in Belgium and employing about 1000 people worldwide, IBA currently has installed systems across Europe and the US and is expanding into emerging markets. The Company is focused on building sustainable global growth for investors, providing solutions in the fight against cancer.

IBA is listed on the pan-European stock exchange EURONEXT. (IBA: Reuters IBAB.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB) and more information can be found at: <a href="https://www.iba-worldwide.com">www.iba-worldwide.com</a>

### About Westdeutsches Protonentherapiezentrum Essen

The West German Proton Therapy Centre Essen (WPE) is a large proton radiation therapy facility in Essen, Germany. Two of overall four treatment rooms for cancer therapy with protons at the WPE have already been commissioned. Gradually, the further two treatment rooms will follow. Due to its physical properties, proton radiation therapy is regarded as both, effective and particularly well tolerable. WPE is an affiliated company of the Universitätsklinikum Essen (University hospital) which closely collaborates with neighboring clinics and institutions. <a href="http://www.uk-essen.de/wpe/english/home.html">http://www.uk-essen.de/wpe/english/home.html</a>

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# Westdeutsches Protonentherapiezentrum Essen

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