



Carl Zeiss Meditec to acquire Laser Diagnostic Technologies

Acquisition complements product portfolio and makes Carl Zeiss Meditec the undisputed market leader in the growth market of glaucoma diagnosis and management

Dublin, CA - Jena, Germany, October 21, 2004 – Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc. and Laser Diagnostic Technologies, Inc. (LDT), based in San Diego, Calif., today announced that they have signed a definitive agreement for Carl Zeiss Meditec's acquisition of LDT yesterday evening. LDT invented and commercialized a new standard for glaucoma detection with its proprietary ocular nerve fiber measurement instrument. Worldwide sales of approximately USD 20 million with a break-even operating result are expected.

The transaction is expected to close in approximately 30-45 days, pending the requisite company and shareholder approvals. Further details of the agreement were not yet disclosed.

"Carl Zeiss Meditec is committed to providing innovative and technologically superior eye care solutions that improve patient care and enhance clinicians' practices across the full spectrum of ophthalmic disease states," said Jim Taylor, President and CEO of Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc. "This acquisition is another important milestone of our growth strategy. It will further strengthen our technology portfolio and undisputed leadership in the growing market of glaucoma diagnosis and management. Looking forward, we will continue our aggressive growth through pursuit of both internal and external potentials."

LDT President and CEO John Moore noted that this deal is a reflection of the successful evolution of the company's GDx technology. "We are pleased by the response of our customers to these recent advances, and this enthusiastic acceptance validates the hard work of our entire LDT team. We expect ongoing adoption and utilization of this technology, especially with the support and capabilities of the Carl Zeiss Meditec



organization. I believe that this merger is in the best interests of LDT's customers and shareholders."

LDT's main product GDx VCC is a dedicated glaucoma diagnosis and management tool. It complements the market presence of Carl Zeiss Meditec's STRATUSOCT™ which is a multipurpose retinal imaging system used not only for the diagnosis of glaucoma, but also for a wide array of conditions including AMD, diabetic retinopathy and pre-and post-cataract assessment. Thus, the GDx VCC targets especially at customers who do not require the full range of capacities as offered by the STRATUSOCT™.

The global market for glaucoma products is expected to increase at an annual rate of over 10% as a result of the aging population and technology advances. Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness. Approximately three million Americans, and more than sixty million people worldwide, have glaucoma, but almost half are unaware that they have it. The patient population is expected to grow as the global population ages. Therefore, the company is well positioned with its glaucoma solutions to meet future expanding demands.

The acquisition also addresses trends in the eye care market by responding to practitioners' desires for more comprehensive solution sets. For glaucoma, this requires measures of both structure and function. Carl Zeiss Meditec provides a complete line of functional diagnostic products, including the Humphrey® Matrix and Humphrey® Field Analyzer, which is recognized as the standard of care for diagnosis and management of glaucoma through measurement and tracking of changes in the visual field. Through the acquisition Carl Zeiss Meditec now offers the most comprehensive line of both structural and functional assessment tools for the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

(Further information about Laser Diagnostic Technologies, Inc. can be found at www.laserdiagnostic.com)



Brief Profile

Built on an unparalleled 150-year heritage of optical innovation, Carl Zeiss Meditec (International Securities Identification Number DE000531370) is one of the world's leading eye care solutions providers.

Its product line includes systems for the diagnosis and treatment of the four main diseases of the eye: refraction, cataract, glaucoma and retinal disorders. The company has incorporated its technologically-superior optics into a stream of product innovations throughout the years, from slit lamps and fundus cameras; to the Humphrey® Field Analyzer, recognized as the global standard for glaucoma detection and management; to its newest applications of lasers as embodied in its leading-edge MEL-80™ refractive laser and innovative STRATUSoc™ for glaucoma diagnosis.

Carl Zeiss Meditec AG is based in Jena, Germany, with key subsidiaries in the U.S. (Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.) and Japan (Carl Zeiss Meditec Ltd.). The rapidly aging global population and other trends are expected to grow the ophthalmic market in the long term. The company is focused on applying innovative optical technologies to protect and enhance vision now and into the future.

28 percent of the Carl Zeiss Meditec shares are in scattered holdings. The remaining 72 percent are held by Carl Zeiss, one of the leading international optic and opto-electronic industry groups of companies in the world.

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