

Press Release

SORIN GROUP ANNOUNCES EUROPEAN MARKET RELEASE OF THE ESPRIT PACEMAKER FAMILY

World's smallest pacemakers feature algorithms dedicated to patient safety and proven therapies

PARIS, France, April 3, 2009 – Sorin Group, (Reuters Code: SORN.MI), a global medical device company and a leader in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, announced today CE mark certification and market release of the ESPRIT™ pacemaker family in Europe.

The ESPRIT pacemaker, the latest family in Sorin Group's pacemaker portfolio, is the world's smallest pacemaker, at 8cc, with no compromise on longevity. Featuring a set of algorithms designed to help patient safety and delivering proven pacing therapies, ESPRIT follows the success of the REPLY pacemaker launched in Europe in 2007, with a simplified user interface and SmartCheck for faster follow-ups.

Patient focus is one of the cornerstones of Sorin Group. ESPRIT includes a host of algorithms designed for patient safety: continuous lead impedance measurements to monitor the integrity of the lead, automatic adjustment of atrial and ventricular sensing, and ventricular auto-threshold to automatically adjust pacing output in case of changing thresholds, thereby enhancing the performance and longevity of the device.

ESPRIT includes Dplus, an automatic AV hysteresis algorithm designed to reduce right ventricular pacing. Unnecessary RV pacing has been shown to increase the risk of atrial fibrillation and heart failure hospitalization.¹ ESPRIT also features SmartCheck™, a tool designed for simplified device checks, which automates follow up tests at the click of a button.

The first ESPRIT pacemaker was implanted by Dr. Jonas Hörnsten, MD, Cardiology Department, at Karolinska University Hospital, in Stockholm, Sweden, site of the world's first pacemaker implant in 1958. Dr. Hörnsten commented: "The small size is impressive and for me that matters. SmartCheck is a very attractive feature and saves a lot of time. I'm very satisfied with Sorin products and support."

"The ESPRIT pacemaker family expands the range of options for physicians and their patients, providing advanced and simplified solutions, with no compromise on safety. Sorin Group continues to develop its product portfolio of technologically advanced features that are easy to use", said Stefano Di Lullo, president of the Cardiac Rhythm Management Business Unit.

About the Sorin Group

¹ "...ventricular desynchronization imposed by right ventricular apical pacing even when AV synchrony is preserved increases the risk of heart failure and AF in patients with SND and normal baseline QRS duration." p.2936, Sweeney M. et al. Adverse effect of ventricular pacing on heart failure and atrial fibrillation among patients with normal baseline QRS duration in a clinical trial of pacemaker therapy for sinus node dysfunction. Circulation 2003; 107:2932-2937.

Sorin Group (www.sorin.com) is a global company and a leader in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The Company develops, manufactures and markets medical technologies for cardiac surgery and for the treatment of cardiac rhythm disorders. With 3,500 employees worldwide, the Group focuses on three major therapeutic areas that include: cardiopulmonary bypass (extracorporeal circulation and autotransfusion systems), cardiac rhythm management, and heart valve repair and replacement. Every year, over 1 million patients are treated with the devices of Sorin Group in more than 80 countries.

For more information, please visit: www.sorin.com, or contact:

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