

Press release

SORIN GROUP ANNOUNCES THE JAPANESE APPROVAL AND MARKET RELEASE OF DEFIBRILLATION LEAD: ISOLINE™

Milan/Tokyo, December 11, 2008 – Sorin Group, (Reuters Code: SORN.MI), a global company and a leader in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, announced today the Japanese approval and the market release of ISOLINE™¹, its latest generation of defibrillation leads.

Leads are insulated wires inserted through the vein as part of an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) or a pacemaker system. They are a key component of the implanted system. Connecting the device to the heart, the leads carry high voltage and electrical impulses from the implanted device to the heart when needed by the patient.

ISOLINE™ defibrillation leads have a multi-lumen structure with a silicone body and include an ETFE protective coating placed around the cables leading to the electrodes. This redundant insulation² is also covered by a third layer of protection consisting of a polyurethane overlay to provide better abrasion resistance. Both ends of the defibrillator electrodes are securely connected to the cables.

ISOLINE™ leads are steroid eluting, dual coil defibrillation leads available in two fixation and two lengths models. With a fully isodiametric 7.8 F lead body, ISOLINE™ leads include EASYTURN™: a quick lead placement system for positioning the lead and extending the helix with a single stylet, and Easy Mapping to obtain pacing thresholds without helix extension.

Dr Shoda, Head of Cardiology Department, and Dr. Manaka, implanter, both from Tokyo Women's Medical University observed: "Our experience using ISOLINE™ was very positive. Its very good maneuverability and handling characteristics contributed to a swift placement."

"ISOLINE™ leads and other CRM devices are distributed in Japan by Japan Lifeline (JLL), a leading distributor of medical devices based in Tokyo. Sorin Group signed a ten-year partnership agreement with JLL last year. The approval of ISOLINE™ ensures JLL can now distribute a complete Sorin Group ICD system, composed of OVATIO™ ICD family and ISOLINE™ defibrillation leads", said Fred Hrkac, President of Sorin Group's Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) Business Unit.

ISOLINE™ defibrillation leads are now available worldwide. The approval in Japan happened two months after the Food and Drug Administration's approval in the USA and the ISOLINE™ defibrillation leads are already available in Europe where they were successfully launched two years ago.

For more information on product performance, see the "Sorin Group CRM Product Performance Report" available on: www.sorin-crm.com.

¹ Active fixation models: Isoline 2CR5 (58 cm) IJ27J and 2CR6 (65 cm) IJ24J
Passive fixation models: 2CT6 (65 cm) IJ23J

² Redundant Insulation: ETFE coating, Silicone

About the Sorin Group

The Sorin Group (www.sorin.com), a world leader in the development of medical technologies for cardiac surgery, offers innovative therapies for cardiac rhythm dysfunctions, and the treatment of chronic kidney diseases. At the Sorin Group, more than 3,500 employees work to serve over 5,000 public and private treatment centers. 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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