

THE DIASORIN GROUP SIGNS THE AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE THE NORDIAG GROUP'S MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS ASSETS

The DiaSorin Group announces that it has concluded, through the Irish subsidiary Biotrin International Ltd., a contract for the acquisition of the molecular diagnostic business of the NorDiag Group.

Saluggia (VC, Italy), May 4, 2012 - The DiaSorin Group announces that it has concluded with the NorDiag Group, with effect as from May 4, 2012, a contract for the acquisition of its business line, technology, patents and know how related to the extraction of nucleic acids used for molecular diagnostic applications.

NorDiag ASA, holding company of the NorDiag Group, headquartered in Oslo and listed on the Norwegian stock market (NORD), develops, manufactures and markets automated technologies for the isolation of nucleic acids and cells from biological samples, essential to perform molecular diagnostic procedures.

For the year ended at December 31, 2011, NorDiag Group molecular business unit revenues accounted for nearly 4 million of Euros (30.3 million NOK), thanks to its products offering that includes:

- i) reagent kits for the extraction of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) from biological samples of different nature (blood, plasma, serum, urine, swabs, stool and sputum)
- ii) two instruments dedicated to the extraction phase of the nucleic acids that can handle many samples simultaneously: the "Bullet" platform for high-volumes routine and the "Arrow" platform for lower throughput routines
- iii) tailor-made software adaptable to the needs of each customer.

Within the molecular diagnostic testing process, sample preparation is the first step, followed by the amplification and the detection phases. A successful sample preparation is a key element for a successful test outcome and it is fundamental for the quality of the diagnostic results.

DiaSorin will address the entire process with the NorDiag extraction systems, combined with the LAMP amplification technology licensed from Eiken Chemical Company Ltd. and the LIAISON IAM detection platform, co-developed with Precision System Science Ltd and planned for market introduction in the last quarter of 2012.

Also, controlling both extraction and amplification technologies is strategic to DiaSorin for the development of a new-generation molecular platform intended to fully automate the diagnostic procedure. The project of the new fully integrated molecular platform will start in 2013 and, when completed, will allow DiaSorin to capture the growing opportunity offered by the decentralization of molecular testing from specialty to routine laboratories.

The purchase price set for the transaction is 7.6 million of Euros, some of which are placed in escrow for a limited period of time to guarantee the purchasing party. The payment was entirely financed through internal resources of the Group.

Commenting on the agreement, Carlo Rosa, CEO of DiaSorin, proudly said *“This acquisition allows us to complete our strategy into the molecular diagnostic segment, complementing our traditional immunoassay offer with a dedicated solution for the molecular diagnostic labs.*

NorDiag’s instruments and knowhow in sample preparation, combined with the LAMP amplification technology, the new DiaSorin molecular instrument Liaison IAM and the availability of 7 specialty tests in the infectious diseases area and 5 specialty tests in the onco-hematology area, will position our Group as a reliable and credible player in the rapidly expanding segment of molecular diagnostics”.

Additional information on the acquisition will be provided on May 11, 2012 during the conference call on DiaSorin Group Q1’12 results.

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