First Blind Patients in the UK Implanted with Retina Implant AG’s Breakthrough Technology

The Associated Press

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 3, 2012-- Retina Implant AG, the leading developer of subretinal implants for patients blinded by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), today announced that the first UK patients participating in the Company's multi-centre trial have been successfully implanted. The UK trial is set to include 12 patients in total and is being led in London by Mr. Tim Jackson, a consultant retinal surgeon at King's College Hospital and Senior Clinical Lecturer at King's College London, and in Oxford by Professor Robert MacLaren, professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Oxford and a consultant retinal surgeon at the Oxford Eye Hospital.

Since receiving the wireless device in mid-April, the first patients in the UK trial are now beginning to experience restoration of 'useful vision' in daily life. The patients were able to detect light immediately after the microchip was activated. Further testing has shown that both patients are able to locate white objects on a dark background. Over the coming months, the patients will undergo further testing as they come to adjust to the microchip.

Mr. Tim Jackson and Professor Robert MacLaren commented: "We are excited to be involved in this pioneering subretinal implant technology and to announce the first patients implanted in the UK were successful. The visual results of these patients exceeded our expectations. This technology represents a genuinely exciting development and is an important step forward in our attempts to offer people with RP a better quality of life." One of the first patients to be implanted, Robin Millar, a 60-year-old music producer from London, said: "Since switching on the device I am able to detect light and distinguish the outlines of certain objects.

I have even dreamt in very vivid colour for the first time in 25 years, so a part of my brain which had gone to sleep has woken up! I feel this is incredibly promising for future research and I'm happy to be contributing to this legacy." Retina Implant's subretinal implant technology has been in clinical trials for more than six years. Patients involved in Retina Implant's clinical trials have received a 3x3 mm2 microchip with 1,500 electrodes implanted below the retina. Results from the Company's first human clinical trial published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B in November 2010 showed placement of the implant below the retina, in the macular region, provided optimum visual results allowing patients to recognise foreign objects and to read letters to form words. The second human clinical trial began in May 2010, in which patients were implanted with Retina Implant's new wireless device in Germany, indicated even better visual acuity. The multi-centre phase of this trial was expanded in late 2011 and now includes two additional sites in Germany, and the UK, as well as a site in China. In fact, Retina Implant announced today the first of three patients to be implanted at the University of Hong Kong Eye Institute has regained useful sight after receiving Retina Implant's

microchip. Sites in Italy, Hungary and the U.S. are also under agreement to participate.

Data from the first nine patients implanted in Germany in this current trial indicate the best visual acuity to-date, with the majority of patients experiencing restoration of useful vision in daily life. The vast majority of patients are experiencing visual perception indoors and outdoors in both dim and bright environments. Additionally, patients have reported the ability to see objects 30 feet away and to read numbers on a pair of dice.

"The UK implants represent a significant milestone in Retina Implant's mission to restore vision to retinitis pigmentosa patients around the world," said Dr. Walter-G Wrobel, CEO of Retina Implant AG. "The Oxford Eye Hospital and King's College Hospital teams have done an excellent job and achieved exciting results. We look forward to continuing the momentum achieved in the trial thus far and to submitting for commercial approval when this phase of research is completed." David Head, CEO of RP Fighting Blindness, added: "The completion of the first two implants in the UK is exciting and significant, and we congratulate Retina Implant AG and the two lead researchers on their progress. The success they've had in restoring functional vision brings hope to people who have lost all their sight as a result of RP.

We very much look forward to hearing details from Professor MacLaren at our conference in June, and then to more results from across Europe in the coming months." About Retinitis Pigmentosa Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is one of the most common forms of inherited retinal degenerations affecting 1 in every 3,000-4,000 people in Europe. A progressive condition that gets worse over time, RP typically causes severe vision problems in adulthood. Retinal implants represent tremendous promise for enabling RP patients to regain sight.

About Retina Implant AG Retina Implant AG is the leading developer of subretinal implants for partially sighted and blind patients. After extensive research with German university hospitals and institutes which began with a large grant from the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education in 1996, Retina Implant AG was founded by Dr. Eberhart Zrenner and his colleagues in 2003 with private investors with the goal of developing a fully-functioning electronic retinal implant to restore useful vision to the blind. Retina Implant began implanting in human patients in 2005 and started a second clinical trial in 2010. To learn more, visit: http://www.retinaimplant.de/ [1].

About King's College Hospital King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is one of the UK's largest and busiest teaching hospitals, with nearly 7,000 staff providing around 1,000,000 patient contacts a year. King's has a unique profile, with a full range of local hospital services for people in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark as well as specialist services to patients from further afield. The Trust is recognized internationally for its work in liver disease and transplantation, neurosciences, cardiac, ophthalmology, haemato-oncology, stroke and major trauma. King's also plays a key role in the training and education of medical, nursing and dental students with its academic partner, King's College London. For

more information, visit: www.kch.nhs.uk [2].

About Oxford Eye Hospital The Oxford Eye Hospital, founded in 1896, is part of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, one of the largest medical research centres in the world. Clinical research in Oxford is supported by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology which is part of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Oxford. The Oxford Eye Hospital has a large research programme to develop new treatments for patients with retinal diseases and treats patients with retinitis pigmentosa referred from all over the UK. For more information, visit: http://www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/eyehospital/home.aspx [3].

About Oxford University Oxford University's Medical Sciences Divisionis one of the largest biomedical research centres in Europe, with over 2,500 people involved in research and more than 2,800 students. The University is rated the best in the world for medicine, and it is home to the UK's top-ranked medical school. From the genetic and molecular basis of disease to the latest advances in neuroscience, Oxford is at the forefront of medical research. It has one of the largest clinical trial portfolios in the UK and great expertise in taking discoveries from the lab into the clinic. Partnerships with the local NHS Trusts enable patients to benefit from close links between medical research and healthcare delivery. A great strength of Oxford medicine is its long-standing network of clinical research units in Asia and Africa, enabling world-leading research on the most pressing global health challenges such as malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS and flu. Oxford is also renowned for its large-scale studies which examine the role of factors such as smoking, alcohol and diet on cancer, heart disease and other conditions.

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Links:
[1] http://www.retinaimplant.de/
[2] http://www.kch.nhs.uk
[3] http://www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/eyehospital/home.aspx
[4] mailto:charlotte.webber@mslgroup.com
[5] mailto:Wrobel@retina-implant.de
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