Leica Microsystems and Bausch + Lomb Sign Global Agreement for Surgical Operating Microscopes

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ALISO VIEJO, Calif. and WETZLAR, Germany, April 16, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Leica Microsystems, a leading manufacturer of microscopes and scientific instruments, and Bausch + Lomb, the global eye health company, today announced that Bausch + Lomb will distribute Leica ophthalmic surgical microscopes, and accessories in select markets across Europe, the United States, India and Latin America beginning this month.

The partnership combines the strength of Leica's innovative ophthalmic microscopes with Bausch + Lomb's global commercial infrastructure, while expanding Bausch + Lomb's offerings for ophthalmic surgeons. Bausch + Lomb's current portfolio of products for cataract, refractive and retinal surgery includes intraocular lenses, equipment, instruments, procedure packs, and other supplies. With the recent purchase of *Technolas*™ Perfect Vision GmbH, an ophthalmology laser company based in Munich, Germany, the company has become an emerging leader in femtosecond laser technology for cataract surgery. Under this agreement, Bausch + Lomb can now offer Leica Microsystems' ophthalmic portfolio, which ranges from routine cataract microscopes to high-end retinal systems. Among these is the Leica M822 for cataract procedures, which combines LED and halogen lighting for a stable red reflex. Per the contract, this relationship may be expanded over time.

John Barr , executive vice president and president, Bausch + Lomb Global Surgical, commented, "We are happy to announce the partnership of two leading companies in the field of eye surgery. Bausch + Lomb is a perfect partner for companies, such as Leica Microsystems, looking to broaden their market reach through a powerful worldwide commercial infrastructure. Leica Microsystems is a trusted, established brand in the industry and the company is known for their innovative microscopes and scientific instruments. We are excited to offer Leica surgical microscopes, as they enhance our ability to offer a 'one-stop shop' for an ophthalmic surgeons' needs, while also accelerating the growth of our business."

"Through this partnership with Bausch + Lomb, we will be able to provide more patients around the world with better access to our world-leading imaging systems," added Eoghan O'Lionaird, president, Leica Microsystems. "We are pleased to have such a respected and innovative company as Bausch + Lomb as our partner. Our customers, their patients, and our business will benefit from this collaboration as ophthalmic surgeons will have a single source supplier for their equipment needs."

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