

PRESS RELEASE

A NEW DEVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA

Milan (Italy) and Copenhagen (Denmark), 2000 September 27th – Zambon Group has signed a license agreement with the Danish drug delivery company "link:Direct-Haler A/S" for the exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise Direct-Haler® Pulmonary. This is an innovative monodose "single-use" inhaler covered by patents all over the world for the administration of powder pharmaceuticals by inhalation in the treatment of chronic-obstructive bronchitis and asthma, the latter alone suffered by more than 100 million patients worldwide.

The new inhaler, suitable to be filled with bronchodilators and steroid antiinflammatory agents, represents a solution to many problems: it is easy to use; it is discrete and always ready at hand (it is small enough to be kept in a jacket breast-pocket); it is hygienic since it is used once and then thrown away; it can contain different doses and thus adapts to the different needs of different patients and, especially, it will improve patient compliance.

"Patient compliance is important in chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD. Studies demonstrate that more than 50% of patients do not regularly comply with the prescribed medication. Ease of use is the key to achieve improved compliance", stated dr. Roberto Rettani, Managing Director and CEO of the Zambon Group. The causes? Difficulty in inhaling pharmaceuticals with standard devices because of difficult control over respiration and the impossibility of "visually" verifying the quantity inhaled.

"Direct-Haler® Pulmonary is intuitive, simple and easy to use. The transparent device ensures the patient to have visual confirmation of "dose ready" and "dose delivered"", said dr. Troels Keldmann, General Manager of Direct-Haler A/S.

Zambon has acquired exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise the Direct-Haler® Pulmonary in the area of lung diseases and is currently in Phase I/II clinical development for the administration of bronchodilators and glucocorticoids.

About Direct-Haler A/S

Direct-Haler A/S is a development company within E.K. Innovation A/S, Denmark. Direct-Haler A/S is a drug delivery company, focused on R&D and out-licensing of world-wide patented device technology for pulmonary and nasal delivery of dry powder.

The innovation approach is to translate insight on the unmet needs of patients, therapy specialists, general practitioners, hospitals, pharmacies, sales representatives, clinical R&D, and device manufacturing – into novel, simple and cost effective delivery devices.

More information on Direct-Haler A/S can be found on: www.directhaler.com

About Zambon Group S.p.A.

Zambon is a multinational pharmaceutical company with registered office in Italy and consists of affiliate companies and representative offices, with production plants in Italy, Switzerland, Brazil and China.

The internationalization, the high research profile, a policy of development of human resources: Zambon Group has based its growth on these key elements and today is a multinational whose turnover is mainly achieved abroad.

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