



Second Sight announces that Argus II is now available in Germany

German patients suffering from severe to profound outer retinal degeneration may now benefit from the world's only approved therapy

Munich and Cologne, 6 September 2011 - Second Sight Medical Products, Inc., the leading developer of retinal prostheses for the blind, is pleased to announce that its **Argus® II Retinal Prosthesis System ("Argus II")** is now available in Germany for blind people suffering from advanced retinal degenerative diseases such as Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP).

Argus II recently received CE mark, following a long-term clinical trial conducted in the US and Europe. This approval clears the way for the first ever commercially available retinal prosthesis which is intended to restore partial vision for people suffering from end-stage disease. The first centres in Germany to offer the Argus II include the University Hospital Klinikum rechts der Isar, Munich, and the University Hospital Uniklinik Köln, Cologne.

"We are pleased to offer for the first time in Germany, in two centres of excellence, a viable and approved long-term solution for blind people suffering from RP," said Robert Greenberg, MD, President and CEO of Second Sight. "Additionally, the centres were successful in funding the technology within the framework of innovation payments."

"We are very excited that Argus II is coming to market first here in Germany after a comprehensive clinical study. This technology represents a huge step forward for the field, and I am excited to be able to offer these patients a proven therapy where previously there was nothing" explained Professor Chris P. Lohmann, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Klinikum rechts der Isar.

Prof. Bernd Kirchhof, Chairman of the Department of Vitreo-Retinal Surgery, Uniklinik Köln, echoed this enthusiasm, "As an ophthalmologist and a surgeon, it is very exciting to be at the forefront of groundbreaking new therapies."

Argus II is Second Sight's second generation implantable device intended to treat blind people suffering from degenerative diseases such as RP. The system works by converting video images captured from a miniature camera, housed in the patient's glasses, into a series of small electrical pulses that are transmitted wirelessly to an array of electrodes on the surface of the retina (epiretinal). These pulses are intended to stimulate the retina's remaining cells resulting in the corresponding perception of patterns of light in the brain. Patients then learn to interpret these visual patterns thereby gaining some functional vision. The clinical study showed that patients achieved significant gains in visual function, including object detection, improvements in orientation and mobility, and even letter recognition.

On behalf of those patients suffering from RP, Dr. Claus Gehrig, CEO of Pro Retina, concluded, "All research and development efforts, which help to regain lost vision, are of great importance for us and give us hope. For affected people it is crucial, which practical possibilities in daily life can be recovered. Here we stand on the retinal prosthesis still in the early days of patient use, and we have great hopes for further development. For blind people with Retinitis Pigmentosa, the improvement of orientation and mobility and

the ability to visually perceive people and objects in everyday life would contribute to a significant improvement in their quality of life."

Second Sight Medical Products, Inc., located in Los Angeles, California, was founded in 1998 to create a retinal prosthesis to provide sight to patients blinded from outer retinal degenerations, such as Retinitis Pigmentosa. Through dedication and innovation, Second Sight's mission is to develop, manufacture and market implantable visual prosthetics to enable blind individuals to achieve greater independence. Argus II is not yet approved for sale in the United States. European Headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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