

Press Release 01/10

January 5, 2010

Novalung continues international expansion into Asia

iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] launched successfully in Korea through partner company Boas Pharm; follow-up clinical trials to follow

Novalung GmbH, the German manufacturer of the innovative iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] for extrapulmonary lung support, is pleased to announce that it received approval from the Korean authorities (KFDA) to market the iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] in Korea.

The system was officially launched in November 2009 at the 17th Asan Ventilator Workshop at Asan Medical Center in Seoul. Prof. Youn-Suck Koh, head of the Department of Pulmonology at Asan Medical Center and the host of the workshop presented the concept of extrapulmonary ventilation with the iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] in the treatment of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) to the approximately 500 workshop participants. The iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] supports the lung by removing carbon dioxide directly from the blood, reducing the work load for the patient's own lung thus permitting adequate ventilation irrespective of lung function.

Novalung's distribution partner in Korea, Boas Pharm, was instrumental in securing the regulatory approval and in preparing the Korean market launch of the unique system for extracorporeal lung support. Nicholas Strout, Vice President Global Sales & Marketing for Novalung, stated: "With Boas Pharm's experience in the Korean intensive-care business, its dedicated sales and clinical support team as well as its focus on building long-term customer relationships, we are convinced that Boas Pharm is the ideal partner to bring the benefits of extrapulmonary lung support to Korean hospitals. Boas Pharm's background as a leading Korean distributor of extracorporeal treatments for acute renal failure gives them a great head-start in this business."

Hyun-Beom Shin, President of Boas Pharm, noted: "We are very pleased that our long-term commitment to the Novalung business has finally paid off with the KFDA approval and the launch at Asan Medical Center. The iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] is a major step in our strategy of bringing innovative and cost-effective treatments to the Korean market. We look forward to initiating commercial activities to open a new era of lung protection in Korea." Together with Novalung Boas Pharm will be starting a follow-up clinical trial at Asan Medical Center under the auspices of Prof. Koh and Prof. Sang-Bum Hong as part of the process for establishing uniform reimbursement in Korea for this unique therapy.



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You can download high-resolution pictures as well as the literature compendium on www.novalung.com or it will be sent on request via email.

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Background Information

Novalung GmbH – Driver of a paradigm shift

Novalung's mission is to develop, produce and market innovative solutions for lung failure, including the world's first pumpless artificial lung assist device designed to breathe outside the patient's body. Founded in 2003, the German company operates on a highly international level focusing on the objective to replace damaging invasive mechanical ventilation.

Boas Pharm

Boas Pharm was founded in April 2005 as exclusive Korean distributor for Gambro, a global leader for renal care products. Preparations to begin registration activities for the Novalung product line began in 2006. Today the expanded Boas Pharm team works throughout Korea to sell and support renal and blood component products, and is preparing for nationwide commercialization of the iLA Membrane Ventilator[®].

iLA Membrane Ventilator[®]

The iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] is the world's first pumpless artificial lung that breathes outside the patient and has been used to support patients' lungs in about 5,000 cases of acute lung failure due to various causes such as bacterial and viral pneumonia (including H1N1), exacerbated COPD, trauma, thoracic surgery and lung transplantation. It removes carbon dioxide effectively and reliably outside the human lung and is perfused by the heart like a natural organ, relieving the patient's lung and supporting its gas exchange capacity. The patient's natural lung is given „Time to Heal“[®].

A hollow fibre membrane in the small artificial lung, which measures only 14 x 14 cm, takes over the gas exchange function from the lungs and supplements or replaces mechanical ventilation. The iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] is connected non-surgically to a femoral (groin) artery and vein using two specially designed NovaPort[®] vascular access devices. Without the need for an external blood pump inflammatory reactions are minimized.

In the scientific literature the iLA Membrane Ventilator[®] is also known as “pecla” (pumpless extracorporeal lung assist) or „AVCO2R“ (arterio-venous CO2 removal).