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MED-EL Announces FDA Approval of First Single-Unit Audio Processor for Cochlear Implants

RONDO™ processor combines control unit, battery pack, and coil into a single, compact design



November 9, 2012 – (Durham, NC) – Global hearing implant system leader MED-EL announced today the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the world's first single-unit audio processor, the RONDO™. This innovative and compact design combines the microphone, battery pack and coil into a single externally-worn processor. The RONDO can be used with all MED-EL cochlear implants.

With the FDA approval of the RONDO, MED-EL cochlear implant users will now have the option of selecting the first-ever audio processor without an ear hook and separate coil and cable. The processor attaches magnetically to the internal implant component; a variety of magnet strengths are available, ranging from soft to standard, strong and super strong.

RONDO is based on the successful OPUS audio processor platform, and features the same signature MAESTRO System software technologies including FineHearing™, a built-in telecoil, and Automatic Sound Management. MED-EL's exclusive FineTuner remote control is used to adjust program, volume, sensitivity and a variety of other listening parameters.

"The RONDO audio processor is an exciting addition to MED-EL's wide portfolio of implant system solutions that provide our candidates with options to fit their unique hearing loss situation and lifestyle," said Richard Collette, President and CEO, MED-EL Corporation USA. "We are thrilled to be able to offer this revolutionary single-unit processor to our cochlear implant users, because it makes the external equipment even less noticeable."

The RONDO will be available in four colors: Anthracite, Nordic Grey, Crème and Ebony. MED-EL USA plans to launch the processor in the Spring of 2013.

About MED-EL

MED-EL Medical Electronics is a leading provider of hearing implant systems worldwide. The company was founded by Austrian scientists and industry pioneers Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair, who together developed the world's first microelectronic, multichannel cochlear implant in 1977. In 1990, they laid the foundation for the successful growth of the company when they hired their first employees. To date, the privately held company now has over 1200 employees around the world.

The cochlear implant was and remains the first replacement of a human sense, the sense of hearing. Today, MED-EL offers the widest range of implantable solutions worldwide to treat the various degrees of hearing loss, including cochlear, middle ear and bone conduction implant systems as well as a system for combined electric and acoustic stimulation.

MED-EL's mission is to overcome hearing loss as a barrier to communication and quality of life. Individuals in approximately 100 countries enjoy the gift of hearing with a MED-EL Hearing Implant System.

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