Medtronic News

German Appeals Court Says CoreValve Devices From Medtronic Do Not Infringe Edwards Lifesciences' Andersen Patent

Consistent With Lower Court Ruling, Latest Legal Decision Enables Uninterrupted Access to Leading Transcatheter Heart Valve in Germany

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb 11, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Medtronic, Inc. (NYSE: MDT), announced today that an appeals court in Germany has found that the CoreValve(R) transcatheter aortic valve system does not infringe Edwards Lifesciences' German Andersen patent, which is set to expire in May 2011. The appellate court's decision upholds a lower court's ruling and enables uninterrupted access to the leading transcatheter heart valve in Germany.

"We are gratified but not surprised by today's ruling," said Scott Ward, president of the CardioVascular business and senior vice president at Medtronic. "We look forward to similar outcomes in the U.K. and the United States."

Court proceedings in the U.K. involving the U.K. counterpart to the German Andersen patent are scheduled to resume May 14 in London with an appeal from the trial court. As in Germany, the U.K. trial court found in January 2009 that CoreValve devices do not infringe the Edwards' U.K. Andersen patent. In the United States, the U.S. District Court of Delaware is scheduled to begin a trial on March 23 involving related U.S. patents.

Medtronic contends that CoreValve devices do not use the technology disclosed and claimed in the Andersen patents. As a result, the company maintains that it does not need a license to those patents in order to sell CoreValve devices.

The CoreValve transcatheter aortic valve system is designed to enable replacement of a diseased aortic valve without open-heart surgery and without surgical removal of the diseased valve. The replacement valve is delivered through a catheter inserted into a small opening in an artery in the patient's leg. As the replacement valve is deployed, the diseased valve is pushed aside, replaced by the new valve, which begins working immediately to improve blood flow from the heart to the rest of the body. The CoreValve System is not currently available in the United States for clinical trials or for sale.

Medtronic is committed to advancing the treatment of coronary, peripheral, aortic and structural heart disease through collaboration with leading clinicians, researchers and scientists worldwide.

ABOUT MEDTRONIC

Medtronic, Inc. (www.medtronic.com), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology - alleviating pain, restoring health and extending life for millions of people around the world.

Any forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Medtronic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended April 24, 2009. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results.

SOURCE: Medtronic, Inc.

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