

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Leica BOND-III Tissue Staining Instrument Wins 2011 Medical Design Excellence Award (MDEA)

Device developed by Invetech; product innovation firm takes third consecutive MDEA award; previously honored for PREVI Isola and TearLab devices

(Melbourne, Australia. 22 April 2011) The Leica BOND-III instrument, a fully automated sample staining system used in the diagnosis of cancer and infectious diseases, has been awarded the prestigious Medical Design Excellence Award for its innovative design that provides results 50% faster than previous generation stainers while also reducing hazardous waste.

Invetech's team worked closely with Leica's software team and application experts to develop the Leica BOND-III. The instrument uses a unique bulk-fluid robotic mechanism and complex control software to significantly reduce protocol run times and achieve superior throughput for a fully automated immunohistochemistry (IHC) and in-situ hybridization (ISH) staining system.

The MDEA competition recognizes advances in the design of medical products that improve healthcare delivery and change traditional medical practices.

Chris Rhoades, Leica's Global Product Manager for BOND Systems said, "Waiting for test results can be stressful for patients. By reducing this time, the Leica BOND-III instrument reduces the anxiety of patients and their families, and enables quicker access to the correct treatment for life threatening diseases."

Diagnostic laboratories face increasing pressure to process greater numbers of patient samples within the same, or smaller budgets, and with the same staff numbers. The time savings afforded by Leica BOND-III can free up a technician's time to perform other tasks. The decreased run times allow for additional runs to be performed each day. By enabling laboratories to meet increasing workloads using existing resources, the laboratory saves time, and ultimately, reduces cost.

The value of the improvements in efficiency offered by the Leica BOND-III instrument extends beyond pathology departments. The quicker a diagnosis is delivered, the less time patients spend in hospital, with subsequent cost savings coming from this. For hospitals, improvements in efficiency manifest as cost savings across patient management, waste management and exposure of staff to hazardous materials.

The MDEA Award will be officially presented in a ceremony at the Medical Design & Manufacturing East 2011 Conference and Exposition in New York in June. Representatives from Leica Microsystems and Invetech will be present to receive the award.

The 2011 MDEA follows the instrument's success in the 2010 Australian International Design Awards.

In 2010, the PREVI Isola, developed by Invetech, won a Gold MDEA. The breakthrough medical instrument delivers a faster, more precise and cost-efficient way to process patient specimens. bioMérieux, a world leader in in vitro diagnostics, partnered with LBT Innovations Ltd, the technology's developer, and Invetech, the instrument's designer and manufacturer, to create this breakthrough technology. The previous year,



An innovative robotic architecture delivers superior throughput for automated IHC and ISH staining and provides diagnosis up to 50% faster than previous generation stainers.



the TearLab Osmolarity System, developed by Invetech, received the MDEA award for design excellence. The system is the first technology that quantitatively and objectively measures Dry Eye Disease in a doctor's office in seconds.

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About Invetech:

Invetech has been creating breakthrough products and custom automation systems for more than 30 years. With more than 200 staff, and experience drawn from over 5,000 projects, Invetech delivers product design and development, contract manufacturing and custom automation services to a range of global market sectors including diagnostics, life sciences, medical devices, cleantech, industrial and consumer products. Operating out of locations in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific, our clients range from start-ups to multi-nationals. For more information: www.invetech.com.au

About Leica Microsystems:

Leica Microsystems is a leading global designer and producer of innovative, high-tech, precision optical systems for the analysis of microstructures. It is one of the market leaders in each of its business areas: Microscopy, Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy with corresponding Imaging Systems, Specimen Preparation, and Medical Equipment. The company manufactures a broad range of products for numerous applications requiring microscopic imaging, measurement, and analysis. It also offers system solutions for life science including biotechnology and medicine, research and development of raw materials, and industrial quality assurance. The company is represented in over 100 countries with 14 manufacturing facilities in 11 countries, sales and service organizations in 19 countries and an international network of dealers. The international management is headquartered in Wetzlar, Germany.
www.leica-microsystems.com

About the Medical Design Excellence Awards

The Medical Design Excellence Awards competition is organized and presented by Canon Communications LLC (Los Angeles) and is the only awards program that exclusively recognizes contributions and advances in the design of medical products. Entries are evaluated on the basis of their design and engineering features, including innovative use of materials, user-related functions that improve healthcare delivery and change traditional medical attitudes or practices, features that provide enhanced benefits to the patient, and the ability of the product development team to overcome design and engineering challenges so that the product meets its clinical objectives. A comprehensive review of the entries was performed by an impartial, multidisciplinary panel of third-party jurors with expertise in biomedical engineering, human factors, industrial design, medicine, and diagnostics. For more information: www.MDEAwards.com

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