



## Press release

# GLSV Invests in Intelligent Medical Implants – Visual Prosthesis for the Blind

**Zug/Munich**, 30. October 2006 – *Global Life Science Ventures (GLSV)* today announced that it has led a €16 million Series B financing of Intelligent Medical Implants AG (“IMI”), a Swiss medtech company developing a retinal implant device for blind patients. The investment was co-led by Abingworth Management Ltd., with the additional participation of existing investors. Stephen J. McCormack, PhD, Principal at GLSV, will be joining as chairman of the supervisory board of IMI.

IMI, headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, with an R&D subsidiary, IIP-Technologies GmbH, in Bonn, Germany, is developing the Intelligent Retinal Implant System (IRIS)<sup>™</sup>, an innovative device that aims to confer visual perception to blind people. Results of a clinical study presented earlier this year showed that the implant enabled completely blind patients to see light and simple patterns via wireless data and energy transmission. The technology is suited for patients with degenerative diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration. This Series B round will allow the company to expand clinical trials and further develop its technology.

Stephen J. McCormack commented, “Intelligent Medical Implants is the most advanced and promising technology of its kind and has the potential to restore vision to thousands of patients suffering from blindness due to degenerative diseases. I am very pleased to be involved at the board level to accelerate the development of this company.”

Hans A. Küpper, PhD, Partner at GLSV, added, “The outstanding technology platform developed at IMI has led to a major breakthrough with its functional implant, which is being driven forward by a highly experienced development team. We wanted to be part of this exciting enterprise.”

Hans-Jürgen Tiedtke, Managing Director and Head of R&D at IIP-Technologies, said, “We are delighted to have a leading life science VC fund like GLSV among our investors. Their support will be instrumental in the refinement of our technology and the execution of clinical trials as we develop a market-ready product.”

### **About Global Life Science Ventures**

GLSV is a leading, independent venture capital fund focusing exclusively on the life sciences. With offices in Germany and Switzerland, GLSV is dedicated to supporting early-stage companies originating from universities, scientific institutions or industry, but also invests in selected later-stage companies, including buy-outs. The group currently advises and manages funds totaling more than €200 million. GLSV has now financed 31



innovative life science companies in Europe and the US, twelve of which have completed an exit through IPO, trade sale or M&A. Since 1996, GLSV has built up a broadly diversified portfolio of companies in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, and biotechnology.

## **Global Life Science Ventures**

### **Industry-born team – Proven track record – Global perspective**

#### **Germany**

GLSV GmbH  
Von-der-Tann-Str. 3  
D – 80539 München  
Tel. +49 (0)89 288 151 0  
Fax +49 (0)89 288 151 30

#### **Switzerland**

GLSV AG  
Postplatz 1, P.O. 626  
CH – 6301 Zug  
Tel. +41 (0)41 727 19 40  
Fax +41 (0)41 727 19 45

[www.glsv-vc.com](http://www.glsv-vc.com)  
[mailbox@glsv-vc.com](mailto:mailbox@glsv-vc.com)

For additional information, please contact:

#### **Rochat & Partners**

Jonathan Leighton or Christophe Lamps  
Tel. +41 22 786 54 55  
Fax +41 22 786 54 58  
E-mail: [leighon@rochat-pr.ch](mailto:leighon@rochat-pr.ch)  
[clamps@rochat-pr.ch](mailto:clamps@rochat-pr.ch)

#### **MC Services (for Germany)**

Raimund Gabriel  
Tel. +49 (0) 89 210 228 30  
Fax +49 (0) 89 210 228 88  
E-mail: [gabriel@mc-services.de](mailto:gabriel@mc-services.de)

For information on Intelligent Medical Implants, please contact:

Andrew Moore  
CFO & Head of Business Development  
**IMI Intelligent Medical Implants AG**  
Tel: +41 41 723 3838  
Fax: [+41 41 723 3839](tel:+41417233839)  
Email: [andrew.moore@intmedimplants.com](mailto:andrew.moore@intmedimplants.com)  
[www.intmedimplants.com](http://www.intmedimplants.com)