Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX: ELX), a global leader in the design and manufacture of ophthalmic laser and ultrasound systems, today announced that it has sublicensed Patent No. 5,549,596, effectively enabling the Company to bring Ellex 2RT™ technology to market in the US.

Under the terms of the agreement, Ellex has been granted non-exclusive rights to the retinal aspects of Patent No. 5,549,596 (“Selective Laser Targeting of Pigmented Ocular Cells”), which is held by a leading medical laser research institute in the US.

Previously, Ellex had been prevented from entering the US market with Ellex 2RT™ due to Patent No. 5,549,596; however, with the sublicense agreement now in place Ellex customers in the US will be able to use Ellex 2RT™ for the treatment of retinal disease.

The Intellectual Property (IP) pathway for Ellex 2RT™ is unencumbered outside of the US, and the Company has filed for four international patents related to the Ellex 2RT™ Program.

Ellex CEO, Mr. Simon Luscombe, said that the sublicense agreement was a major milestone, allowing the Company to proceed with a definitive plan to launch Ellex 2RT™ in the US market.

“The next phase of the Ellex 2RT™ Program will focus on undertaking further clinical trials, and on obtaining key regulatory approvals for the Ellex 2RT™ product range”, commented Mr. Luscombe.

Ellex 2RT™ is a non-damaging laser treatment that stimulates regeneration of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) to preserve vision, and aims to treat the RPE before vision loss occurs – offering a breakthrough treatment option for a range of degenerative diseases that ultimately result in blindness. Early clinical trials have been conducted at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London, with further clinical trials currently underway in Australia to validate the efficacy of Ellex 2RT™ for a number of clinical indications.

If successful, Ellex 2RT™ has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life of millions of elderly people and to reduce health care expenditure worldwide.

“Since launching the Ellex 2RT™ Program we have made significant progress, and the sublicense agreement marks an important next step. We are committed to advancing the role of laser technology in ophthalmology, and look forward to pursuing the opportunities to bring this revolutionary technology to market.”
ABOUT ELLEX

Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX) designs, manufactures and markets a complete line of lasers and diagnostic ultrasound systems used by ophthalmologists to diagnose and treat eye disease. With more than 14,000 systems delivered to the market, Ellex has evolved since 1985 from a manufacturing company of primarily OEM products, to direct marketing of its own branded products through subsidiaries in the United States, Japan, Germany and Australia, and a network of distribution partners in more than 100 countries. In December 2006 Ellex acquired Innovative Imaging, a leading provider of diagnostic ultrasound systems for ophthalmology, initiating the expansion of our product line beyond lasers.

The Ellex name has long been synonymous with excellence in technology, in quality, and in customer care. Ellex maintains the highest quality standards through product development and manufacturing, and strives to provide unmatched levels of clinical expertise and support to our customers. All of these efforts have combined to produce one of the highest levels of customer satisfaction in the ophthalmic industry.

For additional information about Ellex and its products, please visit www.ellex.com

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