

## ASX RELEASE

Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX)

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Topic: Canaloplasty Glaucoma Surgery Recognised as “Gold Standard” in Germany



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**29 October 2014, Adelaide, Australia** – Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX), a pioneer in medical technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, today announced that patient advocacy group The German Federate Eye Association (Bundesverband Auge) has recognised Ellex’s proprietary Canaloplasty technology as the new “Gold Standard” in the surgical treatment of glaucoma.

In conjunction with this milestone, German glaucoma specialist Professor Norbert Körber, MD, FEBO, Cologne, has been awarded the prestigious “Glaukom-Forschungspreis” (for glaucoma research) in recognition of his pioneering work in the area of Canaloplasty.

An advanced glaucoma surgical procedure, Canaloplasty uses Ellex’s patented iTRACK™ microcatheter to enlarge the eye’s natural drainage system. Unlike traditional trabeculectomy surgery, which creates an artificial drainage channel, Canaloplasty restores the function of the eye’s natural outflow system in order to reduce the elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) associated with glaucoma.

According to Professor Körber, Canaloplasty offers an unprecedented level of efficacy and safety in the surgical treatment of glaucoma.

“I was privileged to have been involved in one of the first landmark trials for Canaloplasty. The three-year data from that trial demonstrated the procedure’s ability to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in pressure. It also confirmed the excellent short- and long-term safety profile of the procedure,” said Professor Körber.

Historically, trabeculectomy has been considered the gold standard in the surgical treatment of glaucoma. While the therapeutic benefits of Canaloplasty and trabeculectomy are similar, the safety profiles of the two surgical techniques are vastly different.<sup>1</sup>

A minimally invasive procedure, Canaloplasty provides an improved safety profile and enables surgeons to reduce or eliminate many post-operative complications associated with trabeculectomy, including blurred vision, bleeding in the eye and infection.

According to Ellex CEO, Tom Spurling, the recognition of Canaloplasty’s fundamental role in the glaucoma treatment algorithm is an important milestone in supporting physician uptake of the procedure.

“We are confident that Canaloplasty will increasingly be recognised as the standard of care for glaucoma surgery worldwide. Furthermore, the consumable iTRACK™ microcatheter adds an important recurring stream to our business revenues.”

The glaucoma surgical device market is valued at approximately A\$275 million. Driven by ageing demographics and the displacement of pharmaceutical therapies, it is expected to grow at an annual rate of 24% to reach A\$870 million by 2019.<sup>2</sup> In Australia, glaucoma currently affects 1 in 10 people over the age of 80.<sup>3</sup>

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## **ABOUT CANALOPLASTY**

Canaloplasty is a highly effective surgical technique for the treatment of open-angle glaucoma. The procedure uses microcatheter technology to enlarge the eye’s natural drainage system, similar to angioplasty. Unlike traditional glaucoma surgery, which bypasses the eye’s natural drainage channels, Canaloplasty restores the eye’s natural outflow pathways.

With over 35,000 procedures performed to date, clinical studies have shown that Canaloplasty delivers a sustained reduction in IOP<sup>3</sup>. By addressing all of the possible sites of resistance, including potentially occluded collector channels, Canaloplasty achieves a significant degree of IOP reduction and enables surgeons to obtain post-operative pressures in the range of 12-14 mm Hg, sometimes even as low as 8-9 mm Hg.

**For additional information about Canaloplasty, please visit [www.canaloplasty.com](http://www.canaloplasty.com)**

## **ABOUT ELLEX**

Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX) is a pioneer in the development of medical technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. With more than 20,000 systems delivered to 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, France, Germany and Australia, and a network of distribution partners in more than 100 countries. In recent years, Ellex has diversified its product range beyond lasers and ultrasound equipment to include distribution of a number of complementary third-party ophthalmic products. On 31 December 2013 Ellex acquired the Canaloplasty microcatheter-based glaucoma surgical treatment from iScience Interventional, Inc.

**For additional information about Ellex and its products, please visit [www.ellex.com](http://www.ellex.com).**

### *References*

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2. *Market Scope 2013 Comprehensive Report of the Global Ophthalmic Laser Market.*
3. *Tunnel Vision. The economic impact of Open Angle Glaucoma, Centre for Eye Research Australia, 2008.*

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