Adelaide, Australia, 15 December 2016 – Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX: ELX), a global leader in medical devices for the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, today announced that clinical training of physicians in China in the use of the Ellex iTrack™ minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) device has commenced. The Ellex iTrack™ is the only MIGS device in the world currently approved by the Chinese medical device regulatory authority for sale in China.

First clinical training in ABiC with Ellex iTrack™

This is the first program of clinical training of physicians in the ab interno canaloplasty (ABiC) technique. This program is being conducted at leading hospitals and teaching institutions in Shanghai and Beijing during 12-17 December 2016.

“To date, sales in China have been limited because only the more complex ab externo canaloplasty surgery technique has been marketed. Like it has in the USA, our program in China to relaunch Ellex iTrack for the simpler, faster ABiC technique is expected to be well received,” commented Mr. Spurling.

Ellex iTrack™ featured at China’s First International MIGS Symposium

The clinical training program follows the presentation of Ellex iTrack™ at the inaugural International MIGS Symposium held in Changsha, China, on 11 November 2016. Chaired by Dr. Ningli Wang, MD, PhD, President of the Chinese Glaucoma Society, and featuring the Beijing Tongren Eye Center MIGS Study Group, the conference was attended by 150 of the country’s preeminent ophthalmologists. The symposium was broadcast to a further 28,000 Chinese ophthalmologists via a number of media platforms. Ellex iTrack™ figured very prominently at the conference.

According to Mr. Spurling, the Company’s involvement in the International MIGS Symposium offered an important opportunity to capitalise on its first mover advantage in the Chinese market.

“This symposium was the perfect platform to kick start our re-launch activities in China. As a result of the initiatives undertaken to date, Ellex iTrack is now synonymous with MIGS in China. We look forward to working closely with Dr Wang in order to build on this momentum, and to develop the overall market for MIGS in China,” added Mr Spurling.
China eye disease treatment market growing rapidly

According to an analysis by independent consulting firm Market Scope, the current spend in China for the treatment of eye disease is expected to double over the next five years, growing at a CAGR of 15% to reach US$5.3 billion per annum by 2021.¹

Commenting on the growth opportunity for Ellex iTrack™ in China, Ellex CEO Tom Spurling said: “The demand for ophthalmic services in China is soon expected to exceed any other market in the world. This growing demand, combined with strong global interest in MIGS, offers a favourable market outlook for Ellex iTrack. With Ellex iTrack the only MIGS device approved for sale in China, we are well positioned to benefit from the global trend towards MIGS devices.”

ABOUT ELLEX

Ellex designs, develops, manufactures and sells innovative products that help eye surgeons around the world to effectively and efficiently treat eye disease. Ellex is a world leader in this field. Headquartered in Adelaide, Australia, Ellex has ophthalmic lasers and devices that treat glaucoma, retinal disease primarily caused by diabetes, secondary cataract and vitreous opacities, as well as age-related macular degeneration. Manufacturing is carried out in Adelaide, Australia and Fremont, California. Sales and service directly to eye surgeons is conducted via subsidiary offices in Minneapolis, Lyon, Berlin and Tokyo. A network of more than 50 distribution partners around the world services other markets.

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

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