Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ASX:ELX), a global leader in medical devices for the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease, today announced that it has been granted a European patent titled Retinal Rejuvenation Laser. This patent significantly strengthens the Company’s expanding patent portfolio for the Ellex 2RT® Laser for treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (“AMD”) the leading cause of blindness in the developed world.

About Ellex 2RT®

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. The LEAD (Laser intervention in Early Age related macular Degeneration) clinical trial is currently underway in Australia and due to read out in mid-2018 to validate the efficacy of Ellex 2RT® for early AMD.

Current treatment options are restricted to targeting the late form of the disease, referred to as Wet AMD, which only accounts for approximately 10-15% of all people who suffer from AMD. This represents a significant market opportunity for Ellex 2RT®.

European Device Patent granted

Ellex today announced that it has expanded the Intellectual Property (IP) portfolio for its proprietary Ellex 2RT® (Retinal Rejuvenation Therapy) following the addition of a European device patent (#2170232, “Retinal Rejuvenation Laser”) to its expanding patent family

The Company holds a number of method and device patents in relation to Ellex 2RT® and continues to invest in its IP portfolio in parallel with ongoing clinical investigations.
Commenting on the patent, Ellex CEO, Tom Spurling, said that the granting of the European patent underpins the value of Ellex 2RT® technology.

“The IP pathway for Ellex 2RT® is now unencumbered in all key markets, including Europe. This is of significant importance to our business as we ramp up efforts to commercialise this breakthrough technology,” said Mr. Spurling.

**Ellex 2RT® is targeting a significant unmet need in early AMD**

The leading cause of blindness in the developed world, AMD is a chronic eye disease that can result in vision loss in the central field of vision, including blurred central vision or a blind spot. There are no other approved treatments for the early form of AMD.

Marketscope estimates that there are approximately 120m people in the world with early to intermediate AMD. This compares with approximately 15m who have late disease and whose only treatment is anti VEGF pharmaceuticals injected directly into the eye. Globally approximately US$5b is being spent annually in the major economies on anti VEGF pharmaceuticals.

“Ellex 2RT® is targeting a very significant unmet need. The seminal LEAD clinical trial we will read-out in mid-2018 after nearly 6 years of work and follow up. The results of this trial could have a transformational impact on revenues in 2019 and beyond.” Added Mr Spurling

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**ABOUT ELLEX**

Ellex designs, develops, manufactures and sells innovative product 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](http://www.ellex.com)
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