Press Release

New computed tomography (CT) system marketed

Ascenion mediates licensing contract between the Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Center for Environmental Health and YXLON International

Munich, January 10, 2008 – Researchers at the Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Center for Environmental Health, together with the University of Oregon, USA have developed a new image reconstruction system for computed tomography that produces greater image quality at a lower radiation dose compared with standard systems. With the help of Ascenion GmbH, a licensing agreement has been closed with YXLON International Group Holding GmbH, the market leader in industrial X-ray and computed tomography solutions for non-destructive material testing. YXLON will use and market the new system exclusively for commercial applications in material testing. The German Research Center for Environmental Health and the University of Oregon receive a down payment and a share of future sales revenue.

The new system provides improved raw data analysis and enables high-quality, simplified data collection. The novel reconstruction algorithm ensures significantly more efficient removal of artefacts and background noise compared with standard methods to date. "This could, for example, increase air safety", explains Dr Hoeschen, Head of the Working Group Medical Physics at the German Research Center for Environmental Health. "The system is even able to recognise microcracks in highly stressed components, for example, rotating elements in aircraft turbines." In addition, the greater efficiency will accelerate material testing. Gas pipelines, for example, would not have to be closed down as long for testing. Finally, the reduced radiation dose increases the lifespan of CT equipment, thereby reducing costs.

The signing of the contract concludes a year of successful collaboration between YXLON and researchers of the German Research Center for Environmental Health in which the system was evaluated and the foundations of a close future collaboration were laid. The partners plan to test various industrial applications and develop them for the market. "This reconstruction system has the potential to broaden the use of computer tomography for industrial X-ray testing and to make it a standard procedure in the middle term", says Dr Joseph Kosanetzky, CEO YXLON International.

"We are delighted to have YXLON on board as a market leader in industrial material testing", says Dr Sigrid Scheek, Technology Manager at Ascenion GmbH. "The completed contract with YXLON is just the first step of our marketing strategy. We are now concentrating on the field of medical diagnostics and are in talks with a number of parties". With 140 million CT examinations per annum, there is much interest in the new system. It could cut costs considerably while maintaining image quality at roughly half the current radiation exposure for patients.

Contact
Dr Peter Ruile, COO
T: +49 (0)89 318814-14, E: ruile@ascenion.de
Ascenion GmbH, Herzogstr. 64, 80803 Munich, Germany

Background information

Ascenion GmbH

Ascenion is a patent management agency focused on the life sciences. Ascenion supports and advises scientists and research institutions with regard to the protection and exploitation of their intellectual property (patents, know-how, materials), and initiates and mediates license agreements between research institutions and industry. Among Ascenion's particular strengths are start-up coaching and active investment management. Ascenion is a 100% subsidiary of the Life-Science Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Research and the exclusive commercialization partner of 12 research institutes in the Helmholtz and Leibniz Associations, and also of the Hanover Medical School. Ascenion's headquarters are in Munich, with further offices in Berlin, Braunschweig, Hamburg, Hanover and Neuherberg. Further information at www.ascenion.de

YXLON International X-Ray GmbH

YXLON International is an innovative high-tech company with a long tradition. Founded in 1998 as direct successor to Philips Industrial X-Ray (Germany), Andrex (Denmark) and LumenX (USA), YXLON now belongs to the COMET Holding AG, Flamatt, Switzerland, a leading supplier of X-ray components and modules.

With its headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, subsidiaries in the USA, Japan and Denmark, two sales offices in China and a tight network of agents, YXLON is leading the market in development, production and service of X-ray systems for non-destructive material testing.

The YXLON product catalogue ranges from portable devices for on-site inspection, to standardized, modular systems up to complex, fully automated customer solutions for specific applications. In addition YXLON offers training, maintenance and service worldwide.