



## Press Release |

### **IBA EXPANDING ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE TO MEET EXPECTED DEMAND FOR PROTON THERAPY**

#### **GROUP HIRING PLAN TO EXCEED 250 PEOPLE IN 2007**

Embargo until 5:40 pm (Belgian time) – January 18, 2007

**Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, January 18, 2007** – IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.: Reuters IOBAAt.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB) announced today that it is launching an ambitious expansion program to meet the ever-increasing demand for Proton Therapy systems.

This expansion program will allow the production of up to eight Proton Therapy systems per year in a first phase, a fourfold increase over the current production rate. The investment, in excess of €3 million, will entail an expanded production surface and the addition of new testing vaults at IBA's Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) facility. The new facility should be operational by mid-Summer 2007. This investment is part of an overall development program that also includes a significant hiring plan to maintain IBA's leadership in the most advanced radiation-based cancer therapy.

A Ground Breaking Ceremony was held this afternoon in Louvain-la-Neuve with the management of IBA and several Belgian authorities. IBA Chief Executive Officer, Pierre Mottet, and IBA founder and Chief Research Officer, Yves Jongen, welcomed the authorities, who included: Mr. Didier Reynders, Belgium's Vice-Prime Minister; Elio Di Rupo, Wallonia President-Minister; Jean-Claude Marcourt, Minister for Economy, Employment and External Commerce of the Walloon Region; and Mrs. Marie-Dominique Simonet, Minister for Research, New Technologies and External Relations of the Walloon Region.

"Historically, we've planned to sell an average of one system per year," said Pierre Mottet, IBA's Chief Executive Officer. "But today, we experience a much stronger excitement of the medical community about the unique benefits of Proton Therapy in curing cancer. Our success in quickly producing results in our Proton Therapy facilities in the USA, Korea and China has convinced many institutions that Proton Therapy is no longer just for research but benefits clinical patients as well. Our new compact and carbon solutions, and our financing options, have also attracted a lot of interest. We received 4 orders (one of which is subject to financing) – a 100% market share – in 2006 and one order (also subject to financing) already in 2007. And the pipeline of prospects is stronger than ever. We are now revising our plan to an average of 2 to 3 systems per year. But we want to be ready to respond to peaks and an even stronger demand. This first expansion phase will enable us to raise our capacity to 8 systems per year."

Proton Therapy is the most advanced clinical modality for treating cancer with radiation, as it causes less damage to healthy tissue and delivers the majority of its destructive energy to the cancerous



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cells. With over 60% market share, IBA is the world's undisputed market leader in Particle Therapy. Twelve institutions in the US, Asia and Europe have already chosen a Proton Therapy system from IBA technology.

"IBA is experiencing strong growth in all its businesses," Pierre Mottet adds. "Besides a strong reinforcement of our Proton Therapy staff to maintain our leadership in R&D, sales and manufacturing, we also need more people to support the growth of our cancer diagnostic and dosimetry businesses. We are currently planning to hire around 250 people this year – more than one per working day – of which more than 50% in Belgium."

### **ABOUT IBA**

IBA delivers solutions of exceptional precision in the fields of **cancer diagnosis and therapy**. The company also provides sterilization and ionization solutions to improve the hygiene and safety of everyday life. IBA is listed on the pan-European stock exchange EURONEXT, is integrated into the NextEconomy market segment, and belongs to the BelMid index.

Website: <http://www.iba-worldwide.com>.

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