

Press Release

From Diagnostics Technology Supplier to Innovation Leader in Laser Systems

50 years SCHWIND – a success story

Kleinostheim, Germany, February 2008

High quality solutions for ophthalmology offered in close dialogue with the doctor – SCHWIND has followed this strategy for five decades. In 50 years of steady growth and development, the owner operated family enterprise has advanced from diagnostics technology supplier for ophthalmologic practices to innovation leader in laser systems for correction of ametropia. Already one year after its foundation, the company established itself as a pioneer in the German industry with the first central examination unit for ophthalmologists and in 1972 with the introduction of the first soft contact lenses through the former affiliate Titmus Eurocon. In 1991, the first eye correction with a SCHWIND laser took place. In 1994, the enterprise was the first vendor worldwide to implement serial production of a passive eye tracking system. Since 1999, SCHWIND has concentrated its complete knowledge and all its resources in the area of refractive corneal surgery. In this regard, the company offers a comprehensive, highly developed product portfolio consisting of high-tech laser systems, diagnostic systems, software for individual treatment planning and a highly precise microkeratome. Even in the last years, SCHWIND has often generated conversation as a technological trailblazer: So, for example, with the unique corneal wavefront method for customized treatments, the first-time offered online pachymetry as standard equipment and with the unique cutting technology of the Carriazo Pendular microkeratome, which generates planar flaps in LASIK procedures. With a successful niche strategy the family enterprise has won recognition in a market mainly dominated by multi-national, listed corporations. „Technological innovations made in

Germany, intensive support through application and service, as well as flexible response to individual customer needs are the SCHWIND advantages that are well known by the users", says CEO Rolf Schwind. Its new and further developments are advanced in close co-operation with internationally renowned ophthalmic surgeons. Among the long standing reference doctors is Dr. Carmen Barraquer, Colombia, daughter of Professor José Ignacio Barraquer, the founder of refractive surgery. Since the introduction of the first laser generation in 1992, she regularly examines the precision, predictability and safety of SCHWIND systems in clinical studies and scientific publications. For its 50th anniversary in 2008, SCHWIND is in an excellent position to successfully continue its company history: The newly-introduced laser generation, the SCHWIND AMARIS, has, according to experts, established itself as the new gold standard in refractive surgery. The SCHWIND AMARIS is the first and only eye laser worldwide to combine all available modern technology in one system and establishes the company's innovation leadership with unequaled high-performance features regarding laser parameters, eyetracker, safety and ergonomics.

SCHWIND eye-tech-solutions GmbH & Co.KG, based in Kleinostheim near Aschaffenburg, Germany, develops, produces and distributes medical lasers for correction of ametropia, as well as the respective diagnostic and peripheral devices. The company employs a team of 80 highly motivated experts and is present in more than 60 countries – in Germany with its own sales and marketing organization, abroad through distribution partners. More than 650 SCHWIND laser systems are already installed worldwide. Customers include refractive surgeons in ophthalmologic practices, eye clinics, laser centers and university clinics.