

Media release 10/04

Straumann expands Villeret production site

120 jobs created in Villeret since 2000, with another 90 new positions expected by the end of 2007

Straumann, one of the world's leading companies in implant dentistry and dental tissue regeneration, has further expanded its manufacturing facility at Villeret in the Jura region of Canton Bern, Switzerland. Increased capacity is to be provided by new production machinery covering an area of 2000 m². The new unit was officially opened today by Elisabeth Zölch, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of Canton Berne, and Ulrich Kaempf, Mayor of Villeret.

Production capacity is being expanded in order to meet the increasing demand for the Straumann® Dental Implant System. Villeret is one of the largest state-of-the-art facilities in the dental implant sector and currently produces more than 4.5 million components per year. The latest round of investment reinforces the site's outstanding position and will support the company's future growth.

Dieter Lipp, Straumann's Executive Vice President, Operations, commented: "The Straumann Dental Implant System has an unparalleled reputation for high quality and precision, which is rooted in the precision engineering skills that characterise this region in particular. Over the past few years, our business has grown at a very gratifying rate, making it imperative for us to expand production. This investment puts us in a position to meet capacity requirements in the years ahead."

Despite the difficult economic climate, Straumann has more than doubled its workforce in Villeret since the plant went into operation in 2000. With the current headcount of 220 at the site, the company has become one of the region's major employers and has recruited 24 new hires this year alone. Straumann continues to place its confidence in the region's precision engineering skills and plans to create a further 90 new positions there by the end of 2007.

Elisabeth Zölch, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of Canton Bern, observed that: "Straumann's impressive building at Villeret sends out a positive signal from the company, both internally and externally. It thus enhances the good reputation that Bern's Jura region enjoys beyond our canton's boundaries. Straumann is more than just an important employer."

Villeret currently supplies the entire global demand for all the components of Straumann's successful Dental Implant System. However, in order to support growth in the North American market, the company is currently building a second manufacturing facility in Andover, Massachusetts.

About Straumann

Headquartered in Waldenburg, Switzerland, Straumann (SWX: STMN) is a global leader in implant dentistry and dental tissue regeneration. In collaboration with the International Team for Implantology (ITI), leading clinics, research institutes and universities, the Group researches, develops, produces and distributes implants, instruments and tissue regeneration products for use in tooth replacement solutions or to prevent tooth loss. Straumann also provides training and services to the dental profession worldwide. Straumann's implants and instruments are manufactured in Switzerland, whilst its dental tissue regeneration products are produced in Sweden. With affiliates in 14 countries and distributors in 35, Straumann employs more than 1000 people worldwide. In 2003, the Group generated sales of CHF 344 million and a net income of CHF 80 million.

Disclaimer

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Contact:

Mark Hill, Corporate Communication

+41 (0)61 965 13 21

Straumann Holding AG, Hauptstrasse 26, CH – 4437 Waldenburg

Tel. +41 (0)61 965 11 11 / Fax +41 (0)61 965 11 01

e-mail: investor.relations@straumann.com or info@straumann.com

Website: www.straumann.com
