

News:

Medinol and Gore Form Global Strategic Alliance

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WASHINGTON, Sep 24, 2002 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. (Gore) and Medinol Ltd. announced today that they have entered into a broad collaborative alliance relating to stents and stenting solutions. As part of the alliance, Gore will begin worldwide distribution of Medinol's NIRflex(TM) stent* product portfolio. In addition, Gore and Medinol have agreed to cooperate to combine their respective technologies and capabilities to develop and distribute new, innovative, high-quality stenting solutions. The product development alliance will leverage Medinol's leadership position in cardiovascular stent technology and Gore's recognized capabilities in expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) processing and materials.

"Medinol as a leading designer, developer and manufacturer of stents had been looking for a strategic alliance with a company that has many strengths including a high standard of integrity, a commitment to scientific and technological development, as well as a strong sales and marketing team," says Dr. Judith Richter, chief executive officer for Medinol. "We have great faith in this new collaboration and we believe it will prove to be an excellent choice for our customers."

Gore, known for high-quality medical implants and outstanding customer service, will complement the Medinol product line with its own line of ePTFE covered stent grafts and surgical products for the cardiovascular marketplace.

"We believe that this combination of technology, innovation and integrity of these two leading medical device manufacturers will greatly benefit the clinician and patient with the newest and best products," says Ron Anderson, Gore's Medical Products Division business development leader.

Medinol's new-generation coronary stent systems, NIRflex(TM) and NIRflex(TM) Royal, will soon be available in Europe. A Pre-Market Approval (PMA) application for the NIRflex(TM) stent system was submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today.

About Medinol Ltd.

Medinol Ltd. is a global leader in the field of stents and stenting solutions with a vast and most significant portfolio of intellectual property. Medinol has developed a unique approach to the design and manufacture of an extensive product pipeline. Its new generation NIRflex(TM) stents reflect the company's uncompromising commitment to continuous innovation, unique product design and top quality products. Medinol is privately held and headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel. Additional information is available at <http://www.medinol.com>.

About W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

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