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## **BIOTRONIK Announces Acquisition of VascoMed**

### **Extending therapy solutions for catheter-based treatment of Atrial Fibrillation**

Berlin, January 17th, 2008. BIOTRONIK, a leading European biomedical technology firm focusing on vascular interventions and cardiac electrotherapy, today announced the acquisition of VascoMed – Institut fuer Kathetertechnologie GmbH. Founded in 1989, VascoMed has gained a reputation for innovative development and consistent OEM manufacturing of products used to diagnose and treat diseases of the heart and the vascular system.

In 2003, these two companies first established a strong joint relationship in the commercialization of EP catheters, devices used for the invasive treatment of cardiac rhythm disorders. A special focus of this latest strategic alliance between the companies will be the expanded development of new therapy solutions for the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation (AF).

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is a growing cardiac rhythm disease which affects almost seven million people worldwide. Conventional treatment typically comprises drug therapy, which provides limited long-term benefit with a potential of creating serious side effects. A catheter based ablation of pro-arrhythmic areas within the atria is currently the only curative therapeutic approach. This invasive therapy option is supported by the latest guidelines of leading cardiac organizations like ACC, AHA and ESC. AF ablation represents the fastest growing segment within the Cardiac Rhythm Disease market.

“The latest acquisition will strengthen BIOTRONIK’s distinguished position in the Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) business by providing the opportunity to offer complete therapy solutions to patients with complex cardiac rhythm diseases. VascoMed has a proven track record for innovation and reliability. With this acquisition, BIOTRONIK sets another important milestone in providing outstanding technical solutions addressing two of the most common cardiac diseases, heart failure and atrial fibrillation. We trust that this acquisition will fuel our growth and rapid expansion in the area of electrophysiology,” commented Dr. Werner Braun, Managing Director at BIOTRONIK.

“VascoMed brings about 20 years of experience in the development and production of EP and other catheter products to BIOTRONIK. By joining BIOTRONIK’s CRM business, the firm will serve even more patients with our innovative solutions. Moreover, the acquisition by BIOTRONIK will create synergies as well as additional employment on both sides” said Karl-Heinz Babczynski, Managing Director of VascoMed.

Both Managing Directors of VascoMed, Karl-Heinz Babczynski and Joerg Reinhard, will remain with the company and expect a strong increase of Vascomed’s OEM Business

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while being smoothly integrated into BIOTRONIK's organization and establish a long term basis for an AF therapy focused franchise.

### **About BIOTRONIK GmbH & Co. KG**

As one of the worlds leading cardiovascular medical device companies, with several million implanted devices, BIOTRONIK is present in all world markets. Known for having its finger on the pulse of the medical community, BIOTRONIK helps to assess the challenges physicians face, and provides the best solutions, be they cardiac implants, minimal invasive devices or other products and services ranging from diagnosis to electrotherapy and vascular intervention or therapy management. Quality, innovation, and reliability define BIOTRONIK and its growing success, and deliver confidence and peace of mind to physicians and their patients worldwide.

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