



Press release |

## ARCHADE-IBA HADRON THERAPY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

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**Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008** - IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.: Reuters IBAB.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB) is signing today a letter of intent with ARCHADE to complete the development of the prototype for a new system for hadron therapy in Caen.

ARCHADE is an association whose members are the Centre François Baclesse (a centre combating cancer in the Basse-Normandie region) and Caen CHU (university hospital). This association was set up in order to develop a European resource centre for hadron therapy in the Basse-Normandie region.

The aim of the preliminary agreement signed by IBA and ARCHADE today is to qualify this equipment for therapeutic use before the end of 2011. This new centre will be built around a new type of highly advanced 400 MeV (Millions of Electrons Volts) superconducting isochronous cyclotron which will be used to accelerate carbon ions, as well as protons.

The latest advances made in hadron therapy are actually based upon the use of carbon ion beams to treat certain tumours - including radioresistant tumours - more effectively, thanks to its significant biological effect.

The equipment which the partners are planning to design amounts to an investment of almost 40 million euros, which IBA will be entrusting to ARCHADE for the development phase. ARCHADE will have the opportunity to buy the prototype back as soon as it has been qualified for therapeutic use.

"IBA has always been at the cutting edge of the development of particle beam cancer treatment solutions. We're now the undisputed leaders in the field of proton therapy. For a number of years now we've been working on designing a new particle accelerator which will allow us to add the expected advantages of using carbon ion beams, as well as proton beams, whilst at the same time retaining our technology's peerless accuracy and flexibility. This new design will also help to cut the cost of access to this technology considerably", commented Pierre Mottet, Chief Executive Officer of IBA.

"The construction of the prototype is underway. We're very excited about the idea of finalising the development of this technology in Caen, working in partnership with world-renowned teams who have a reputation for their cutting edge skills in working with particle accelerators and radiobiology. We feel sure that this partnership will have very wide-ranging scientific benefits for the whole of the worldwide physics and radiotherapy community, and especially in France", Mr Mottet added.



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“Working with a very dynamic and innovative partner such as IBA will allow us to make the most of the research potential of the Caen market in a fast-growing sector. We’re taking a very long-term view of our relationship with IBA so that we can develop this hadron therapy resource centre in Europe and thus speed up the dissemination of the technology to benefit patients”, commented Professor Khaled Meflah, Chairman of ARCHADE.

A ceremony at which this letter of intent will be signed and a press conference will be held this morning at the Conseil Régional de Basse Normandie and will be attended by Yves Jongen, founder and Chief Research Officer of IBA, Professor Khaled Meflah, Chairman of ARCHADE and Philippe Duron, President of the Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie, amongst others.

### **ABOUT IBA**

IBA develops exceptionally high precision solutions used to diagnose and treat cancer. The company also provides sterilisation and ionisation solutions to optimise health and safety on a daily basis. IBA is quoted on the pan-European Euronext stock exchange and is part of the BelMid index.

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

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