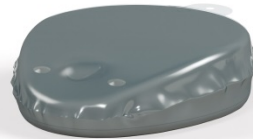


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FDA Approves WaterWear for MED-EL's RONDO

*Completely submergible cover allows
full moisture protection with the
freedom of an all-in-one cochlear
implant audio processor*



December 11, 2014 – (Durham, NC) – MED-EL USA announced today the FDA approval of the WaterWear fully waterproof cover for the all-in-one RONDO Audio Processor. The remarkably thin WaterWear will not compromise microphone performance, so RONDO recipients can be in and around water while enjoying excellent hearing performance. The sleek, skin-tight cover is engineered for optimal comfort. WaterWear will be available in early 2015. The announcement was made at the 14th Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children in Nashville, Tenn.

WaterWear packs include three covers, each of which can be used up to three times. The covers can be worn for up to ten hours at a time, and have been tested at water depths of up to four meters (approximately 13 feet) – longer and deeper than any waterproof processor cover on the market. The cover can be used in chlorinated water, freshwater and saltwater.

"WaterWear is a simple and elegant solution that provides RONDO wearers with the ability to fully submerge in water, while leaving their processor safe and dry. Within seconds, this reusable accessory transforms the RONDO into a completely waterproof device, without the need to change or adjust processors," said Ray Gamble, President & CEO, MED-EL North America. "MED-EL is committed to our patients and their active, engaged lifestyle. WaterWear allows for all of the benefits of the exclusive RONDO design, without long cables or bulky cases."

WaterWear is affordable and reusable, giving RONDO users the freedom to enjoy all the activities they love. Recipients can contact their Customer Service Representative to order, or visit www.medel.com for more information.

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About MED-EL

MED-EL Medical Electronics is a leading provider of hearing implant systems worldwide. The company was founded by Austrian scientists and industry pioneers Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair, who together developed the world's first microelectronic, multichannel cochlear implant in 1977. The cochlear implant was and remains the first replacement of a human sense, the sense of hearing. In 1990, the Hochmairs laid the foundation for the successful growth of the company when they hired their first employees. In 2013, Ingeborg was awarded the prestigious *Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award* in recognition of her contributions to the development of the modern cochlear implant. MED-EL is the only hearing implant manufacturer to have its founder and CEO hold this distinction. Today, the privately-held company has more than 1,500 employees around the world. Individuals in more than 100 countries enjoy the gift of hearing with a MED-EL Hearing Implant System.

MED-EL's mission is to overcome hearing loss as a barrier to communication and quality of life. The company offers the widest range of implantable solutions worldwide to treat the various degrees of hearing loss, including cochlear, middle ear and bone conduction implant systems as well as a system for combined electric and acoustic stimulation. www.medel.com

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