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Free Trade:

TTIP and Medical Devices

Berlin. The medtech industry would profit from a liberalization of the markets on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and has high hopes that the TTIP treaty will help to overcome trade barriers, reports the online journal medizintechnologie.de. The European Commission does not strive to harmonize the market access procedures for medical devices. Instead, the EU proposes to create a lean approval process by introducing a joint application for the approval of new medical devices. Manufacturers could then request the approval of their product simultaneously for the US and for Europe, and thus simultaneously launch their products in both markets. Read more in the latest MedInsight issue: www.medinsight.de.

International Standards for E-commerce

Duesseldorf. In order to optimize the procurement and treatment processes in healthcare and to increase patient safety, existing standards for electronic communication must be systematically implemented. According to the experts of the 17th E-commerce Conference organized by BVMed, the key success factors for reaching this goal are accurate master data and the interoperability of systems.

Medical Technology Still Leading in Patent Applications

Munich. According to the European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich, medtech heads the list of technological fields in 2014, too. 11,124 worldwide medtech patent applications were submitted to the EPO in 2014. Despite a decrease of 6.3 percent, Germany was leading in Europe with 1,381 applications.

Draft Law Against Corruption in the Healthcare Service

Berlin. According to an advisor's draft paper of the Federal Ministry of Justice, a new article, 299a, is to be added to the German Criminal Code. It will create a new criminal offense, namely bribery and corruption with regard to healthcare professions. Besides physicians this will cover pharmacists, psychotherapists, and the nursing professions as well. The penalties will be up to a five years' imprisonment or a fine.

New Annual Report Published

Berlin. BVMed has published its new Annual Report 2014/15 with news on the German medical technology market. Next to current health political issues, BVMed's Annual Report contains information on the medical technology sector and on BVMed's departments Politics, Healthcare Systems, Health Insurance, Homecare, Legal Issues, Consumer Protection, and Communications. In addition, facts on the work of BVMed's more than 50 expert committees are provided.

BVMed, the German Medical Technology Association, represents more than 230 manufacturers and service providers of medical devices. The medical technology industry in Germany employs

about 190,000 people and invests an average of 9 percent of their sales volume in research and development.

As a trade association, BVMed promotes and represents the combined interests of the medical technology industry and trade companies. The association offers its members a platform for constructive dialog and the exchange of views in various working groups. Through public relations work and by participation in the development of laws, guidelines, and standards, BVMed represents the concerns of its member companies to policy makers and the public in general. More at: www.bvmed.de/english

Negotiations on Medtech Benefit Assessment

Berlin. The draft bill on the German Healthcare Service Strengthening Act of the Statutory Health Insurance includes the assessment of new examination and treatment methods involving high-risk medical devices. The new scheme applies to methods in the hospital sector for which a first-time application is submitted to the Institute for Hospital Reimbursement (InEK). In order to simplify the process, the medtech manufacturers propose that the InEK institute should first ex-

amine the application so that only applications that were assessed positively and granted "status I" will undergo a benefit assessment process. The industry also criticizes the fact that the manufacturers are not sufficiently involved in the current process, as well as it continues to advocate a limitation of automatic method exclusions.

The law is scheduled to pass in both parliamentary chambers before the summer recess.

More at: www.medinsight.de

MedInsight Germany: Latest News on Europe's Biggest Market!



MedInform has published the new April issue of MedInsight Germany, a background report authored by the German medtech experts **Joachim M. Schmitt** and **Manfred Beeres** in cooperation with AdvaMed. MedInsight gives the latest news on Europe's biggest medtech market.

Topics of the new issue are e. g.: Update on Current Legislation Projects in Germany; Free Trade: TTIP and Medical Devices; International Standards for E-commerce; German Medtech Market Development:

Key Facts; Medical Technology Still Leading in Patent Applications; New Study on Number of Surgical Procedures; Hospital Reform; Draft Law Against Corruption in the Healthcare Service; Healthcare Industry Is Economic Driver.

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