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Minister of Health Jens Spahn wants to succeed Angela Merkel

Berlin. Federal Minister of Health **Jens Spahn** will run for the position of chair of the CDU party as a successor of Chancellor Angela Merkel. In his position as Minister of Health, Jens Spahn has sharpened his social policy profile. The other candidates apart from Mr. Spahn are CDU secretary general **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer** and the former chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group **Friedrich Merz**, who has worked in the financial industry during the last ten years. The CDU federal party congress will take place in Hamburg on December 7 and 8, 2018. In the run-up, the candidates will present themselves and their programs during regional conferences.

Endoprostheses register presents new numbers

Berlin. The German Endoprostheses Register (EPRD) association has published their third annual report. With 706 hospitals supplying documentation of nearly 283,000 surgical procedures in 2017, the numbers were higher than ever. This year's annual report focuses on analyzing the length of service life of various arthroplasty procedures and protocols. For the first time, results of implant systems within their first three years of life are being compared. The numbers show, for instance, that the rate of failure of an implant component leading to additional surgery is only 2 percent for hips, while it is 2.6 percent for arthroplasty of the knee.

Forecast for global medical technology market

London. The market research company Evaluate MedTech forecasts the global market to grow by 5.6 percent on average, from \$ 405 bn in 2017 to \$ 595 bn in 2024. Devices used in neurology and diabetes care would grow most. In contrast, imaging diagnostics and orthopedic devices would develop below average.

Melanie Huml remains Minister of Health in Bavaria

Munich. **Melanie Huml** (CSU) remains Health Minister in Bavaria. **Hubert Aiwanger**, chairman of the coalition partner Freie Wähler, is to head the Ministry of Economics.

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MDR: EU Commission against time line extension

Berlin. The German Ministry of Health and trade associations such as BVMed, ZVEI or Spectaris advocate the postponement of the effective date of the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR). The MDR regulation provides for a three-year transitional period and an effective date of May 25, 2020. At this point in time, however, the EU Commission clearly opposes an extension of the time line. This was confirmed during a debate in the European Parliament on October 25, 2018. Commissioner **Elżbieta Bieńkowska** expressed her belief that all statutory deadlines have been met to date. This would also apply to the accreditation of Notified Bodies. 34 out of approximately 60 No-

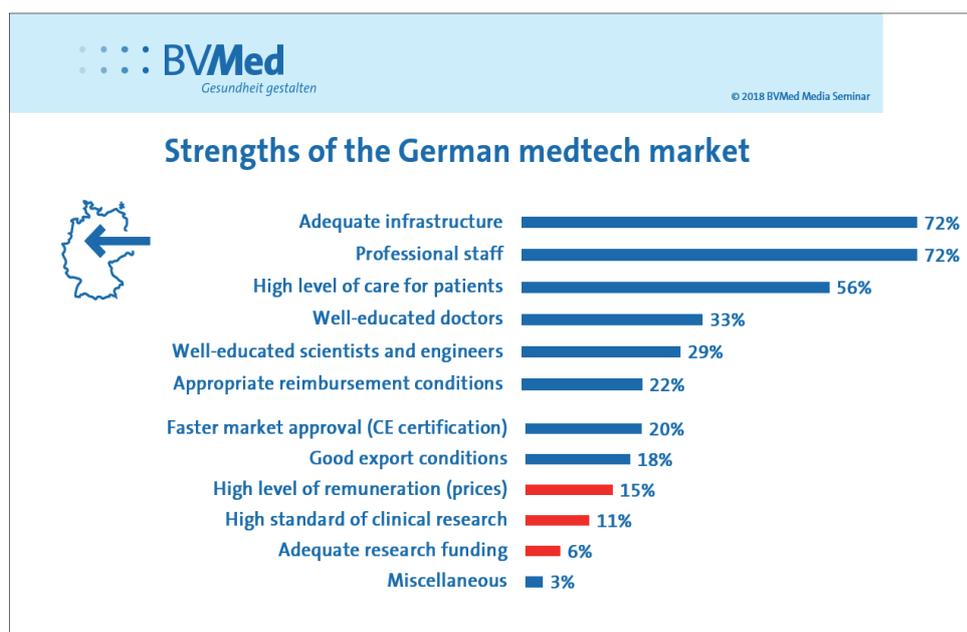
tified Bodies had submitted accreditation applications to the Commission. Their evaluation was on schedule and the first Notified Bodies might already be available before the year was over. In response to concerns that the situation might worsen due to the non-availability of the Notified Bodies in the UK, she said that the BSI Group, the largest organization in the Netherlands, would make a new appointment. SGS already had offices in Finland and Belgium, and UL International and LRQA, according to the information available to the Commission, had also taken steps in this direction. The process regarding the Eudamed data base was also within the set time frame. More at www.medinsight.de.

DRGs: Strengthening technologies to support care

Berlin. BVMed's medical technology companies are committed to promoting nursing-care-supporting, hospitalization-reducing medical technologies and processes. The medtech association believes that the Ministry of Health's draft Nursing Care Strengthening Act (PpSG) runs the risk of providing disincentives, as the planned removal of nursing staff costs from the G-DRG system will penalize state-of-the-art procedures with higher costs of materials. "The strict separation of costs of care and other costs in the future G-DRG system means that there will no longer be a financial incentive to invest in innovative technologies, whereas these investments currently are compensated by shorter hospitalization times and, thus, lower nursing costs," said BVMed

CEO **Joachim M. Schmitt** on the PpSG hearing in the Bundestag.

BVMed is convinced that advanced medical technologies result in a superior quality outcome. "Patients recover faster, and this shortens the duration of hospitalizations. Already today, supporting technologies provide enormous relief for the nursing sector and can compensate HR bottlenecks," said BVMed. The PpSG would set the wrong incentives and increase HR costs. If the nursing costs were actually taken out of the DRGs, case flat rates would have to be recalculated. New DRGs would have to be calculated, in particular for DRGs with differences in the HR costs within one and the same flat rate. Read more at www.medinsight.de.



Most of BVMed's member companies interviewed in the 2018 Medtech Fall Survey mention the adequate infrastructure, professional staff, and the high level of care for patients as strengths of the German medtech market.