MedTech sector creates more jobs in Germany

Berlin. Medical technology companies are slightly optimistic about 2006. About 43 per cent of companies are expecting an improvement in their economic development, with 35 per cent expecting theirs to remain the same. These were the results of a sector survey of over 200 member companies of the German Medical Technology Association, BVMed, which was presented at the association’s press seminar in November 2005 in Berlin.

The medical technology sector is one of the few in which jobs are still being created. Some 47 per cent of those companies surveyed said that they had created more new jobs than during the previous year, with 11 per cent claiming a significant increase. 26 per cent of the companies reported no changes. In Germany, medical technology companies employ a total of about 110,000 people. According to one European study this figures is higher, indicating 145,000 jobs. According to BVMed, expenditure on medical devices in Germany is in excess of 20 billion Euros annually.

BVMed released the following new turnover statistics relating to the current sector situation in autumn 2005: the turnover development of BVMed’s 200 plus member companies has improved slightly over the first three quarters of 2005. Reported turnover statistics to BVMed show an increase in the first nine months of 2005 of 2.1 per cent, compared to the previous year. At the same time last year, growth was only 1.7 per cent.


Avoiding double assessment of medical devices

Bonn. The modern legal framework for medical devices that undergo a risk-oriented conformity assessment - more self responsibility for manufacturers, notified body certification and market surveillance by Member States - has proved effective overall. This was the message conveyed by experts at the BVMed conference, entitled: “The medical devices law in practical implementation” on 10 November 2005 in Bonn, in front of some 180 delegates from companies and authorities.

Industry representative Dr. Wilhelm Emmerich from Becton Dickinson called for a “fully established European database” to eliminate consultation problems and information shortfalls that arise during market surveillance.

Another concern addressed overlaps in assessment procedures in accordance with the Medical Devices Act and the German Social Code (Book Five in particular). This issue “remains a point of contention between health insurance funds, the Institute for Quality and Cost-Effectiveness in Healthcare (IQWiG) and companies”, said BVMed Director General Joachim M. Schmitt. It was important to avoid double assessment for performance and therapeutic benefit. Double assessments mean additional costs without additional benefit.


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BVMed - German Medical Technology Association

This report has been published by BVMed, the German Medical Technology Association, and provides insights into the sector's performance and future prospects. The organization represents the interests of medical technology companies in Germany.

The December issue of MedInsight, a monthly report authored by German MedTech experts Joachim M. Schmitt and Manfred Beeres together with Stephen Hull from AdvaMed, MedInsight gives the latest news on Europe’s biggest Medtech-market.

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

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Topics from the new issue are:
- Healthcare positions of the new government; Quality assurance in hospitals through minimum number of procedures; Medical technology in the outpatient sector; Documentation: Germany’s Evidence-Based Health Care System Policy; Good grades for Germany’s healthcare system; Status of Integrated Care; Medtech sector creates more jobs in Germany; Homecare grows in importance.

AdvaMed and BVMed member companies can receive “MedInsight Germany” at a discounted subscription price of 600 Euro per year (10 issues). The normal subscription fee is 1,200 Euros for one year.

You can order a free issue of the monthly MedInsight in English-language by email at: insight@medinform.de. You can also order at: www.medinsight.de.

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