Diasorin Launches the First Fully Automated Assay for the Detection of Helicobacter Pylori on Stools

April 2, 2012 - Saluggia (VC) - Diasorin S.p.A. (FTSE MIB:DIA) is pleased to announce the launch on its Liaison platforms of the new Helicobacter Pylori Stool Antigen assay worldwide, ex USA and UK.

This assay, developed using the key Meridian Bioscience Inc. (NASDAQ GS:VIVO) technology, is the first fully automated assay for detection of H. Pylori antigens in stool samples and the second assay of the Liaison Gastrointestinal (GI) stool testing panel to be launched, after the Clostridium Difficile already launched by Diasorin in December 2011.

The Liaison Helicobacter Pylori Stool Antigen assay detects the presence of H. Pylori faecal antigens in stool samples.

H. Pylori infection is one of the most common bacterial infections in humans. It is now, without a doubt, the cause of most cases of chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer disease, and the main risk factor for gastric cancers (adenocarcinoma and gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma). Reliable detection of H. Pylori infection is of major importance for correct therapy, successful treatment monitoring and additionally for eradication programs. Since its introduction, the test for detection of the pathogen in feces has been widely used because of its full noninvasive nature.

The size of H. Pylori worldwide market is estimated to exceed € 100 million as a combination of noninvasive methods, such as serological assay, Urea Breath Test and faecal antigen detection.

Mr. Carlo Rosa, Chief Executive Officer of Diasorin Group, commented "I am really proud to announce the launch of the first fully automated assay for the detection of H. Pylori on stools on our Liaison instruments. After the launch of the C. Difficile test in December 2011, the launch of our H. Pylori test today represents the second step to address the GI stool testing market, a very important pillar for our future strategy where Diasorin can leverage on its infectious disease leadership and its broad Liaison installed base.

The respect of the timing in the launch of this new test provides to me the confidence in achieving the important targets on GI Stool testing set by Diasorin for the forthcoming years".

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