

## ESTEVE signs agreement with VSY Biotechnology and enters new market: eye surgery

**This alliance is part of the company's strategic plan to strengthen its presence in ophthalmology by introducing highly innovative products**

**Barcelona, 22 September 2015** – ESTEVE announced today the signature of a collaboration agreement with the company VSY Biotechnology to consolidate its growth strategy in the field of ophthalmology, thereby expanding its portfolio with specialized products for eye surgery, specifically relating to cataract surgery.

This agreement allows ESTEVE to expand its portfolio in ophthalmology —which already includes products for ocular surface diseases and age-related macular degeneration (AMD)— and to address the surgery sector, where about 350,000 cataract interventions are performed in Spain every year —over 22 million interventions worldwide

ESTEVE's short-term strategy consists in expanding the current product portfolio and in diversifying to address new market segments. Our long-term strategy includes the creation of a portfolio of in-house products, and international development.

ESTEVE's ophthalmic area, now strengthened by a new surgery team, expects to be present in several European markets by 2020.

According to Esteve's CEO **Albert Esteve**, "We want to promote ophthalmology as an area of strategic value. In this context, the agreement with VSY Biotechnology is *an important step to meet our strategic growth axes*, where we are developing an active policy of partnerships with other companies. "

For his part, ESTEVE's Director-General of pharmaceutical activities **Joe Sullivan** said that "*choosing VSY Biotechnology as a partner involves not only accessing a very extensive portfolio of surgical solutions in this sector, but also working with a company that, just like ESTEVE, strongly supports innovation*".

In the words of VSY Biotechnology's CEO **Dr. Ercan Varlibas**, "Our partnership with ESTEVE, a respectful, ethical and strong company, and the highly innovative products of VSY Biotechnology, this synergy of professionalism and high technology products, will serve for patients in Spain."

ESTEVE will add the products of VSY Biotechnology to its portfolio. An benchmark of intraocular lenses, VSY has developed the Acriva Reviol Tri-ED trifocal lens, a key product for the treatment of long-sightedness in cataract surgery. Over the past 5 years, more than 1,400,000 lenses manufactured by VSY Biotechnology have been implanted in patients from over forty countries.

In addition to intraocular lenses, ESTEVE's portfolio of ophthalmic surgery products will also include viscoelastic devices and balanced salt solutions —both essential cataract surgery products— supplied by the same manufacturer. Other surgical products will be added in the future, such as operating room products, perishable materials, and instruments, thus offering a wide range of solutions in this area.

## **About VSY Biotechnology**

Created in 2009 and headquartered in Amsterdam (the Netherlands), VSY Biotechnology is an innovative company devoted to offering the best ophthalmic solutions through a new range of products designed and manufactured to improve the sight of patients worldwide.

VSY Biotechnology's top-level R&D team has provided a portfolio of innovative products. Also, VSY's unique production capacity has resulted in differentiated products that meet the most demanding quality standards.

With its extensive production line, VSY Biotechnology develops its technology along two complementary lines —one for the patient and one for the ophthalmologist— and focuses on the development of cataract products and the innovation of existing lens models. The company currently has three production sites, two in Turkey and one in Germany. For more information, please visit: [www.vsybiotechnology.com](http://www.vsybiotechnology.com)

## **About ESTEVE**

ESTEVE ([www.esteve.com](http://www.esteve.com)) is a leading chemical-pharmaceutical group located in Barcelona, Spain. Ever since its foundation in 1929, ESTEVE has been firmly committed to excellence and has used its best efforts in drug research to cover unmet medical needs with significant social impact. The company works on both an independent and partnership basis to provide new, first-class treatments to the patients. With a workforce of 2,300 professionals, the company has subsidiaries and production sites in several European countries, the US, China, and Mexico.

More information at [www.esteve.com](http://www.esteve.com) y [www.esteve.com/investigacion-desarrollo](http://www.esteve.com/investigacion-desarrollo)

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