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Dräger Medical's OR light Stella receives design award

Lübeck, March 14, 2006 – The Industrie Forum Design in Hanover, Germany, has awarded the 'iF product design award' for innovative product design to Dräger Medical for their concept of the OR light Stella. The contest is one of the most important design competitions worldwide. For this year's award, nearly 2, 000 entries from over 30 countries were submitted. Stella was launched in 2005.

While its design reminds you of a UFO, its range of service appears to be 'supernatural.' Like a twin star whose beams are close together and balls of gas exchange their brightness, Stella has two optical systems in a single body. They are joined at an optical axis, each with its own lenses, filters and reflectors. The system also combines halogen and gas discharge technology. While the gas discharge system generates large-area, shadow-free illumination, the halogen system provides an additional high-contrast depth illumination. As a result, the system is able to evenly illuminate both the area surrounding the wound and deep into the situs, supporting stereoscopic vision and preventing bothersome shadows from occurring as far as possible. The control design takes into account the demands of the individual medical practitioner by allowing the surgeon to set the optimal luminance by the constant, homogenous light cylinder and to adjust the depth of illumination using a sterilizable handgrip centrally located on the body of the light. The Stella concept accommodates the necessity to separate sterile and non-sterile areas to optimize the efficiency of procedures and hygienic requirements before and during the operation.

In developing and conversion Dräger Medical's product management worked closely with the agency BARSKIDESIGN from Frankfurt, Germany. "The idea was to create an OR light which has a high recall value," explains Margret Hünerbein, product manager at Dräger Medical. "We are very proud to receive the award – a proof, that we reached our goal."

Each year, the Industrie Forum Design holds a competition for the most

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innovative product design of the year. Entries can be for any product, from a bike to a cell phone. The criteria that the judges look for includes workmanship, choice of material, ergonomics, functionality, visual appeal, and safety.

About Dräger Medical:

Dräger Medical AG & Co. KG is one of the world's leading manufacturers of medical equipment, the largest division of Drägerwerk AG (history dates back to 1889) and a 65:35 joint venture company between Drägerwerk AG and Siemens AG. The Company offers products, services and integrated CareArea™ Solutions throughout the patient care process - Emergency Care, Perioperative Care, Critical Care, Perinatal Care and Home Care. With headquarters in Lübeck, Germany, Dräger Medical employs nearly 6,000 people worldwide. Additional information is available on the Company's website www.draeger-medical.com

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