

For Immediate Release

FDA Approves Rechargeable Battery Options for MED-EL's SONNET Audio Processor

The SONNET Audio Processor with the Micro rechargeable battery will be the lightest on the market



June 2, 2016 – (DURHAM, NC) – MED-EL announced today the FDA approval of two new rechargeable battery options for the SONNET Audio Processor, Standard and Micro. When used with the Micro option, SONNET will be the lightest audio processor on the market. MED-EL is expecting availability in the coming months.

"MED-EL has led the way with offering cost-effective and user-friendly rechargeable battery options," said Raymond Gamble, CEO & President, MED-EL North America. "From the beginning, MED-EL has offered choices that fit the lifestyles of our users. The rechargeable battery packs offer an eco-friendly and practical option for the SONNET Audio Processor."

The standard rechargeable battery provides up to ten hours of listening, and is fully compatible with WaterWear. The micro rechargeable battery is incredibly small and discreet—with the micro battery, SONNET only weighs 8.1 grams on the ear. Both battery packs will be available in the full range of SONNET accent colors.

The easy-to-use batteries can be quickly charged and easily changed. The SONNET Charging System can charge up to four batteries at once and is powered through a USB connection.

MED-EL also has introduced the Mini Battery Pack for SONNET, which allows users to connect SONNET to a body-worn battery pack that provides up to 37 hours of use from a single AAA battery. The Mini Battery Pack for SONNET will be available in six color options: Black, Ebony (brown), Anthracite, Nordic Grey, Beige, White.

People who choose MED-EL today, will receive a voucher for a SONNET Rechargeable Battery Kit, to be redeemed upon availability.

About MED-EL

Austria-based MED-EL Medical Electronics is a leading provider of hearing implant systems with 29 subsidiaries worldwide. The family-owned business is one of the pioneers in the industry. The two Austrian scientists Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair developed the world's first microelectronic-multichannel Cochlear Implant in 1977. The cochlear implant was and remains the first replacement of a human sense, the sense of hearing. In 1990 they laid the foundation for the successful growth of the company when they hired their first employees. To date, the company has grown to more than 1600 employees around the world.

Today MED-EL offers the widest range of implantable solutions worldwide to treat various degrees of hearing loss including cochlear and middle ear implant systems. People in over 100 countries enjoy the gift of hearing with the help of a product from MED-EL. www.medel.com

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