

For Immediate Release

WaterWear for OPUS 2 and SONNET Receives FDA Approval

*Completely submersible behind-the-ear
audio processor covers available late
summer 2016*



May 31, 2016 – (Durham, NC) – MED-EL announced today the FDA approval of the WaterWear accessory for its behind-the-ear (BTE) audio processors, OPUS 2 and SONNET, including the recently-approved SONNET Rechargeable Battery option. The WaterWear, a fully waterproof cover, can be used in freshwater, saltwater, and chlorinated water. MED-EL expects the new accessory to be available in late summer, in time to take advantage of summer fun at the pool, lake or beach.

"Our recipients have enjoyed the wet world that the WaterWear for RONDO has opened up, and we're thrilled that WaterWear for our BTE processors will be here soon," said Raymond Gamble, CEO & President, MED-EL North America. "MED-EL users can continue using their same processor, getting the same great performance, without needing to adjust to bulky cases or long cables just to get wet."

Within seconds, MED-EL's latest external audio processors can be transformed into a completely submersible waterproof device with the highest IP68 rating. The sleek, skin-tight cover is engineered for hassle-free comfort. The remarkably thin WaterWear is designed for optimal microphone performance in or near water. WaterWear is also inexpensive and reusable, giving MED-EL recipients the freedom to enjoy water-based activities. The package includes three covers and nine seals; each cover can be used up to three times.

WaterWear for the RONDO all-in-one audio processor is currently available. Recipients can visit www.medel.com for the latest availability of WaterWear for the OPUS 2 and SONNET.

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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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