



## Media Release

Zurich – 3 March 2008

### **Nobel Biocare provides updated NobelGuide™ software to German market**

**Nobel Biocare announced today the launch of an updated version of NobelGuide™ software for the German market. The new release is aimed at supporting customers in Germany until an ongoing patent dispute is resolved. It enables Nobel Biocare's German customers to continue treatment planning regardless of a patent infringement suit lodged by Materialise. The updated software is designed to neither infringe the European patent of Materialise nor to contravene the judgment of the Lower Regional Court of Düsseldorf.**

In 2005, Nobel Biocare introduced the innovative and proven NobelGuide™ computer-aided treatment concept for “guided surgery”. NobelGuide™ had been on the market for more than two years before August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, when the Lower Regional Court of Düsseldorf, Germany, ruled that NobelGuide™ infringes patent rights of Materialise. Nobel Biocare is convinced that the company has not infringed any valid patent claims of Materialise and has therefore appealed against this decision. In the same context, in June 2007, Nobel Biocare filed a claim with the German Federal Patent Court in Munich in order to invalidate the patent in question. Furthermore, in August 2007 Nobel Biocare has filed a lawsuit in the United States against Materialise and its subsidiary, Materialise Dental. The suit seeks a judgment that Nobel Biocare does not infringe on any relevant patent of Materialise.

Nobel Biocare was informed by Materialise that the latter will enforce the judgment of the Düsseldorf Lower Regional Court of August 2007. Thus Nobel Biocare will have to cease and desist offering to the German market NobelGuide™ software and the templates derived thereof.

In order ensure the availability of NobelGuide™ and thereby safeguard the best interests of the company's customers and their patients without disruptions or irritations potentially created by Materialise's lawsuit, Nobel Biocare has decided to introduce an upgraded version of NobelGuide™ for the German market. The latest release is designed so that it in no way infringes the European patent of Materialise or contravenes the ruling of the Lower Regional Court of Düsseldorf. As a result, Nobel Biocare will sell this software and the related templates in Germany, regardless of the ongoing patent dispute.

Nobel Biocare will continue to vigorously pursue its legal action against Materialise in Germany and wherever it may be needed in order to invalidate Materialise's patent. Nobel Biocare is confident in the strength of its own intellectual property rights that protect NobelGuide™.

For more information about Nobel Biocare, visit [www.nobelbiocare.com](http://www.nobelbiocare.com)



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**Nobel Biocare** is a medical devices group and the world leader in innovative esthetic dental solutions with its brands Brånemark System<sup>®</sup>, NobelReplace<sup>™</sup>, NobelSpeedy<sup>™</sup>, NobelPerfect<sup>®</sup>, NobelDirect<sup>®</sup>, Replace Select, (dental implants), Procera<sup>®</sup> (individualized dental prosthetics), NobelGuide<sup>™</sup> (complete patient rehabilitation program) and NobelSmile<sup>™</sup> (patient education website). Nobel Biocare is a full-solution provider for restorative esthetic dentistry, offering a wide range of innovative Crown & Bridge & Implant products, as well as training and education, patient information and clinically documented treatment concepts. Nobel Biocare has over 2,200 employees and recorded revenue of EUR 665 million in 2007. The Company is domiciled and headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Production takes place at five production sites located in Sweden, the USA and Japan. Nobel Biocare has direct sales organizations in 36 countries. The shares of the parent company Nobel Biocare Holding AG are listed on SWX Swiss Exchange and OMX Stockholm, Sweden.