

## **Preceyes enters into collaborations with NightstaRx (Nightstar) and the University of Oxford to develop subretinal drug delivery technology**

**Eindhoven, 29 February 2016** – Preceyes B.V. (NL) and Nightstar (UK) have entered into a collaboration for the development of a high-precision drug delivery technology in the eye. Nightstar will use the Preceyes robotic device to further refine the delivery of gene therapy to the subretinal space for a range of inherited retinal diseases. In the course of the collaboration, Nightstar will purchase the PRECEYES Surgical System for use in human gene therapy trials.

In a separate collaboration, a team led by Prof Robert MacLaren at the University of Oxford (UK), will be initiating human clinical trials using the PRECEYES Surgical System. Preceyes and the University have agreed to conduct an investigator-led clinical study, assessing the clinical functionality and applicability of the device. The focus of the study will be on high-precision vitreoretinal surgery which will facilitate future targeted drug delivery.

Preceyes' high-precision robotic system targets ocular surgery, with vitreoretinal surgical procedures as the initial target market. The technology promises to improve the delivery of existing ocular surgery as well as enables the development of new treatments such as high-precision drug delivery, assisting eye surgeons in performing the most demanding surgical tasks.

David Fellows, CEO of Nightstar said, "Gene therapy has huge potential in retinal diseases and continuing to improve the precision and ease of delivery of the therapy are critical elements to success". Robert MacLaren, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Oxford commented, "Over the last century, devices that enhance surgical precision have given us the greatest breakthroughs in ophthalmology. We are delighted to have approval for a clinical trial in Oxford which will be the first to assess use of a robotic device for surgery inside the eye."

Gerrit Naus, CEO of Preceyes said, "The collaborations with Nightstar and the University of Oxford are a major recognition of the unique value of our technology and its applicability to new treatments for unmet needs. We are very pleased to work closely with Nightstar and the University of Oxford to further mature the gene-therapy delivery and look forward to market adoption."

### **Further information**

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**About Preceyes B.V.**

Preceyes B.V. is a medical robotics company focussed on ocular surgery in the eye care market. The company's first target is to support vitreoretinal surgeons in performing high precision procedures. Preceyes is also active in supporting the development of new procedures, such as high-precision drug delivery. Preceyes is a spin-out of the Eindhoven University of Technology and is located at the Science Park in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Preceyes leverages the mechatronics capability of the Dutch Brainport region. [www.preceyes.nl](http://www.preceyes.nl)

**About NightstaRx Ltd.**

Nightstar is a private biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of therapies for retinal dystrophies. The Company's lead programme is a retinal gene therapy for choroideremia, a rare inherited cause of blindness that affects around 1 in 50,000 people. Gene therapy has the potential to be an effective treatment for choroideremia and a range of other retinal dystrophies. The Company's lead investors are Syncona LLP and NEA Inc. Syncona, an independent subsidiary of the Wellcome Trust, is an evergreen investment company, taking an active role in identifying, supporting and developing technologies with the potential to impact significantly the healthcare market of the future. NEA is a global venture capital firm focused on helping entrepreneurs build transformational businesses across multiple stages, sectors and geographies. [www.nightstarx.com](http://www.nightstarx.com)

**About the University of Oxford Biomedical Research Centre**

The NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre is funded by the National Institute for Health Research, and is a partnership between the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Oxford. The NIHR provides the NHS with the support and infrastructure it needs to conduct first-class research funded by the Government and its partners alongside high-quality patient care, education and training. Its aim is to support outstanding individuals (both leaders and collaborators), working in world class facilities (both NHS and university), and conducting leading edge research focused on the needs of patients. Work on developing new technology in eye surgery is led by the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences in conjunction with the Surgery Theme of the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. [www.eye.ox.ac.uk](http://www.eye.ox.ac.uk)

**PRECEYES Surgical System**

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