Nobel Biocare to join Danaher dental business

ZURICH, Switzerland/CHARLOTTE, USA: Danaher, a US health care conglomerate of brands from various industries, and Swiss dental manufacturer Nobel Biocare announced that the two companies have entered into a definitive transaction agreement. In order to further expand its global dental business, Danaher has offered to buy Nobel Biocare, which is the second-largest supplier of dental implants worldwide, for CHF2 billion (US$2.1 billion).

Earlier this year, Nobel Biocare confirmed that it had been approached at the end of July by third parties with a potential interest in acquiring the business. Now, the company’s board of directors has unanimously decided to recommend that Nobel Biocare’s shareholders accept the offer, which includes the acquisition of at least 67 per cent of all shares.

According to Danaher, it reaches about 99 per cent of dental practices worldwide through an extensive network of dealers and direct sales. With the acquisition of Nobel Biocare, the company will become one of the largest consumable and equipment competitors in dentistry, especially in the premium segment of dental implants, with expected sales of US$3 billion. Danaher also stated that it is planning more investments.

Both companies disclosed that the transaction is scheduled for completion by late 2014 or early 2015. Once the acquisition has been completed, Nobel Biocare will operate as a stand-alone company within Danaher’s dental business, maintaining its own brand and identity.

Since 1984, Danaher has acquired more than 400 companies, KaVo Kerr Group, which unites leading dental consumable, equipment, high-tech and specialty brands under one platform, was formed at the beginning of this year. The group includes KaVo, Kerr, Xaix, SybronEndo, Instrumentarium Dental, SOREDEX, i-CAT and Implant Direct.