

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Smith & Nephew plc
(Registrant)

Date: April 24, 2003

By: /s/ Paul Chambers

Paul Chambers
Company Secretary

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Centerpulse [GRAPHIC OMITTED]

[GRAPHIC OMITTED] Smith + Nephew

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Australia or Japan

24 APRIL 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITH & NEPHEW AND CENTERPULSE: TRANSACTION UPDATE

London/Zurich, 24 April 2003 - Smith & Nephew plc, the global advanced medical devices company, and Centerpulse AG, a leading medical technology group, announce that documents are being posted today to their respective shareholders regarding the proposed combination of the two businesses to create a leading global orthopaedics company, as announced on 20 March 2003.

The timetable for key events is expected to be as follows:

- o 25 April 2003 - Offers for Centerpulse AG and InCentive Capital AG launched
- o 19 May 2003 - Smith & Nephew EGM and Court Meeting
- o 24 June 2003 - Offers close
- o 25 June 2003 - Dealings in new Smith & Nephew Group shares commence
- o 17 July 2003 - Final results of the offers announced

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With the prior approval of the Swiss Takeover Board, Smith & Nephew Group reserves the right to extend the offer period beyond 40 days.

Smith & Nephew shareholders will receive a circular containing details of the Scheme to establish Smith & Nephew Group as the new holding company of Smith & Nephew. The circular will also contain notices of an extraordinary general meeting and a court meeting to approve the Transaction. Shareholders will also receive Listing Particulars relating to the New Ordinary Shares to be issued by Smith & Nephew Group pursuant to the Scheme and the Offers. Smith & Nephew preference shareholders will receive a separate circular containing proposals to redeem all the existing preference shares.

Centerpulse shareholders will receive a summary offer prospectus, a form of acceptance in respect of the public tender offer for Centerpulse and Summary Listing Particulars relating to Smith & Nephew Group. Centerpulse shareholders with a registered address in the US will receive a prospectus filed under Form F-4 instead of the summary offer prospectus.

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Under the parallel offer for InCentive Capital, its shareholders will receive an offer prospectus, a form of acceptance in respect of the public tender offer for InCentive Capital and Summary Listing Particulars relating to Smith & Nephew Group.

ENQUIRIES:

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|--|---|
| Smith & Nephew Helpline for Smith & Nephew shareholders | Tel: +44 (0) 870 600 2027 (UK) Tel: +44 (0) 1903 702767 (outside UK) |
| Angie Craig, Corporate Affairs Director | Tel: +44 (0) 20 7401 7646 |
| Centerpulse Helpline for Centerpulse shareholders | Tel: +41 (0) 848 372 436 |
| Beatrice Tschanz, Corporate Communications | Tel: +41 (0) 1 306 9646 |
| Suha Demokan, Investor Relations | Tel: +41 (0) 1 306 9825 |
| InCentive Raoul Bloch | Tel: +41 (0) 1 205 9300 |
| Lazard (Financial Advisers to Smith & Nephew) Nicholas Shott | Tel: +44 (0) 20 7187 2000 |
| Lehman Brothers (Financial Advisers to Centerpulse) Kenneth Siegel Henry Phillips | Tel: +1 212 526 7000 Tel: +44 (0) 20 7601 0011 |
| UBS Warburg (Financial Advisers to Centerpulse) Karl Schmidt Liam Beere | Tel: +44 (0) 20 7568 5959 Tel: +44 (0) 20 7568 2286 |

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Marc Klingelfuss

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Financial Dynamics
(PR for Smith & Nephew)
London: David Yates / Jonathan Birt
New York: Anton Nicholas / Deborah Ardern-Jones

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The definitions used in this announcement shall have the same meaning as set out in the Smith & Nephew Group Listing Particulars / Summary Listing Particulars issued today.

Lazard is acting exclusively for Smith & Nephew and Smith & Nephew Group and for no-one else in connection with the Offers and will not be responsible to any other persons for providing the protections other afforded to clients of Lazard or for providing advice in relation to the Offers.

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Lehman Brothers is acting for Centerpulse in connection with the Transaction and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than Centerpulse for providing the protections offered to clients of Lehman Brothers nor for providing advice in relation to the Transaction.

UBS Warburg is acting for Centerpulse in connection with the Transaction and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than Centerpulse for providing the protections offered to clients of UBS Warburg nor for providing advice in relation to the Transaction.

Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie is acting as financial adviser for InCentive in connection with the Transaction and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than InCentive for providing the protections offered to clients of Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie nor for providing advice in relation to the Transaction. In addition, Smith & Nephew has entrusted Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie with the technical execution of both the Centerpulse and the InCentive Offer.

United States of America

This news release does not constitute an offer to purchase or a solicitation of an offer to sell any securities. The complete terms and conditions of the exchange offer are set forth in a preliminary prospectus/offer to exchange and a related letter of transmittal, which are included in a Registration Statement on Form F-4 that is being filed on April 25, 2003 with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The preliminary prospectus/offer to exchange and related letter of transmittal will be mailed to holders of Centerpulse American Depositary Receipts and U.S. holders of Centerpulse shares. The Registration Statement (including the preliminary prospectus/offer to exchange, letter of transmittal and related documents) will also be available free of charge on the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov.

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Other Jurisdictions

Offering materials relating to the Offers are not being distributed in or into a country or jurisdiction, including without limitation Canada, Australia or Japan, where such distribution would be considered unlawful or in which it would otherwise breach any applicable law or regulation or which would require Smith & Nephew Group to amend any term or condition of the Offers in any way or which would require Smith & Nephew Group to make any additional filing with, or take any additional action with regards to any governmental, regulatory or legal authority, including without limitation Canada, Australia or Japan. Offering materials relating to the Offers may not be used for the purposes of soliciting the purchases of any securities of Centerpulse or InCentive from anyone in such country or jurisdiction.