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OMI receives TGA approval for full range of Safety Scalpels

Occupational and Medical Innovations Ltd ("OMI"), a Queensland based medical devices company, announced today it had received Therapeutic Goods Administration ("TGA") approval to distribute its full range of Safety Scalpels to the Australasian hospital market.

The Safety Scalpels are being manufactured by Wuxi Xinda Medical Device Co. Ltd in Shanghai and will be distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Device Technologies Australia, with which OMI signed an exclusive five-year agreement in September 2003.

A full range of interchangeable disposable plastic handles and blade cartridges are available. Uniquely, OMI also offers a stainless steel handle in the most commonly used sizes, essential for use in operating theatres.

Mr Bruce Kiehne, OMI Joint Managing Director, commented on the reaction from surgeons involved in hospital trials at the end of 2003; "We have been very encouraged by the response we have received from surgeons trialing the safety scalpel. OMI's innovative scalpel design will help to reduce dramatically the incidence of serious hand injuries among healthcare professionals in our hospitals.

"A number of hospitals have expressed an interest in conducting a trial of the scalpel and we anticipate that these will begin in the next few weeks."

The OMI Safety Scalpel features a retractable guard that allows blades to be loaded and removed in complete safety, protecting surgeons and hospital staff from sharps injuries. A simple one-handed action is required to draw the guard back to expose the blade ready to make an incision, the action is then reversed to cover the blade when it is not in use. The device achieved recognition for its innovative design at last year's Australian Design Awards, winning the award in the Industrial Design category.

The Safety Scalpel currently is exposed to the North American, Canadian, Caribbean and Mexico markets through an exclusive distribution agreement with Personna Medical, a division of the American Safety Razor Company.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Kiehne', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Kiehne
Managing Director