



News Release

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Bespak bids a fond farewell to its original inhaler valve

Bespak, a leader in medical devices for inhaled drug delivery and anaesthesia, has this month marked the end of production of its original metered dose inhaler valve – the BK300.

Chosen to deliver one of the world's first inhaled asthma drugs – Ventolin, the valve was hand produced in relatively small quantities in 1968, but soon production levels were increased substantially, leading to the relocation of the manufacturing facility from Hertfordshire to King's Lynn in 1975. At the peak of production, Bespak produced enough valves for 50 million inhalers per year using 7 'Shaker' hand assembly systems.

In 1990, Bespak's Valve Development and Continuous Improvement teams began work on the BK300's eventual successor, the BK357 valve which has been one of the catalysts for Bespak's success in recent years.

To mark the end of production, around 30 staff who worked on the BK300 valves over the years gathered at a celebration dinner in King's Lynn.

Mark Throdahl, Chief Executive of Bespak commented. "This dinner marked the end of an era. The billion BK300 valves we have manufactured not only established Bespak's credentials as a leader in inhaled drug delivery technology, but also began a relationship we have enjoyed with GlaxoSmithKline for more than 45 years and that has spanned many projects - a notable achievement in its own right."



Chris Hall, Business Manager for the Respiratory Division presents Paul Barnes, Product Support Manager, with a crystal decanter to mark his contribution to the BK300's success over the past 30 years.

Notes for editors

About Bepak plc

Bepak plc is a leader in medical devices for inhaled drug delivery and anaesthesia.

The Group develops drug delivery systems for the pharmaceutical industry and disposable airway management products for critical care settings in hospitals.

Bepak develops and manufactures metered dose inhaler valves, actuators, compliance aids, dry powder devices, disposable face masks, breathing circuits and laryngeal tubes. The Group has facilities in King's Lynn and Milton Keynes in the UK, Indianapolis, Indiana and Kent, Ohio in the US, and Mumbai, India. Bepak is a public company quoted on the full list of the London Stock Exchange (LSE: BPK). For more information, please visit www.bepak.com

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