SightLife Surgical to Acquire the KAMRA® Inlay as Cornerstone for New Refractive Cornea Division

AcuFocus to accelerate development and commercialization of breakthrough small-aperture intraocular lens technology

IRVINE, Calif. – March 8, 2018 – AcuFocus, Inc., the global leader in small aperture technology, and SightLife Surgical, an emerging leader in cornea care, today announced they have agreed to terms for acquisition of the AcuFocus KAMRA inlay. The KAMRA inlay is the leading corneal inlay globally and was the first to receive approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the surgical correction of presbyopia. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

“At SightLife Surgical, we pride ourselves on being cornea experts and innovators. As part of our mission to eliminate corneal blindness by 2040, we have been actively searching for safe, effective and reliable corneal surgical technologies to enhance and expand our portfolio of products and services for surgeons,” said Monty Montoya, president and CEO of SightLife Surgical. “As we’ve monitored the progress made in the corneal inlay market, we have been impressed with the AcuFocus team and their KAMRA inlay technology. We look forward to adding this proven technology to SightLife Surgical and carrying forward the development of this segment.”

The KAMRA inlay is an ultra-thin, opaque mini-ring that uses a simple physical principle – pinhole optics – to deliver true extended depth of focus for patients with presbyopia. Presbyopia is the age-related loss of near vision that affects virtually everyone over age 50. Researchers estimate that this segment of the population will grow to more than 123 million by 2020 in the United States alone. Today, most people with presbyopia must rely on reading glasses to see objects up close.
“We believe this acquisition represents a true win-win for patients, surgeons and our respective stakeholders. SightLife Surgical gains a market-leading technology along with a tenured team with the know-how to continue to grow the market,” said Al Waterhouse, president and COO of AcuFocus, Inc. “For AcuFocus, this acquisition allows us to focus our full energy and efforts on bringing our groundbreaking IC-8 small aperture IOL to the U.S. market.”

Richard L. Lindstrom, MD, founder and attending surgeon at Minnesota Eye Consultants and board member for both AcuFocus and SightLife Surgical, added, “The KAMRA inlay is a minimally invasive solution for a greatly underserved and growing segment of the population. I have been involved with AcuFocus and the KAMRA inlay since its inception and have personally witnessed the evolution of the technology and procedure. Developing a new segment is not easy and takes time. I’m excited about the progress achieved today and the strong corneal focus of the SightLife Surgical team moving forward. I believe the KAMRA inlay will have a bright future and will be an increasingly utilized solution for presbyopia correction.”

To ensure seamless transition and uninterrupted customer support, a core team from AcuFocus will join SightLife Surgical. Patrick Jacques will join as vice president of refractive cornea. Yari L. Mitchell, while maintaining her role as vice president of medical affairs & business strategy at AcuFocus, will support the transition as a strategic advisor for SightLife Surgical.

The companies expect the deal to close at the end of Q1 2018 with full transition of services and support to follow shortly thereafter.

ABOUT ACUFOCUS
AcuFocus, Inc., is a privately held ophthalmic medical device company that develops and markets breakthrough technologies for the improvement of near vision. The Company’s proven, proprietary technology platforms use a small aperture – or pinhole – to allow only focused light rays to reach the retina and bring objects into clear focus. The result is unique, reliable and long-lasting performance. Using the small aperture concept, two products have been developed: the KAMRA® corneal inlay and the IC-8 intraocular lens. The KAMRA inlay helps presbyopic patients restore their near vision while maintaining their far vision. The IC-8 intraocular lens provides a range of vision across various distances, from near to far, and is specifically designed for patients with cataracts. The IC-8 IOL is CE Marked and currently available in select markets and is not approved by the FDA for use in the U.S. Founded in 2001, AcuFocus is based in Irvine, California.
For additional information about the KAMRA inlay or the IC-8 intraocular lens, visit www.AcuFocus.com, www.IC8Lens.com and www.KAMRA.com. Follow @KAMRAinlay and www.facebook.com/KAMRAinlay.

ABOUT SIGHTLIFE SURGICAL
Seattle-based SightLife Surgical is a mission-driven company, seeking innovation and improvements in all dimensions of cornea care. Through partnerships, investments and education, the company invests in research and development of scalable therapeutics for the prevention and treatment of corneal disease. SightLife Surgical supports corneal surgeons and their patients with a spectrum of services, including the latest products and devices, delivery of the highest-quality tissue, surgeon education and advocacy for patient access and reimbursement policies. www.sightlifesurgical.com

# # #