

Covidien plc
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Chief Information Officers Mike Hedges (Medtronic) and Steve McManama (Covidien) share details on integration

November 24, 2014

InSite sat down with the Chief Information Officers of Medtronic and Covidien to get their take on what it takes to integrate the two companies. The CIOs share their perspectives on systems integration, impact on the new combined company, and what non-IT employees can do to contribute to a smooth IT integration.

Steve McManama, Covidien CIO

Mike Hedges, Medtronic CIO

InSite: Tell us what it is like, from an IT perspective, to plan for the combination of the two companies.

Steve: Covidien learned a long time ago that consolidation of IT systems is key to executing a successful integration. The only way to do this is to get the two IT organizations involved early on in the planning of how the two organizations will operate as one after the transaction closes.

Mike: You start by putting the right people with the right skill set in the right structure.

Several years ago, Medtronic's Global IT organization created an integration playbook to help build sound processes around integrations and divestitures. We've been following that playbook with this integration planning.

The biggest challenge is that all IT decisions need to be integrated with business decisions. So you have to rely on businesses to make decisions very quickly.

InSite: What are some of the IT systems that must be integrated soon after close?

Mike: Things that will help with communications are a high priority – email, network, infrastructure. Tools that allow us to report our financials will need to be ready relatively quickly, too.

Steve: I would add that getting everyone on to one common HR system will help in talent development and goal alignment in the new organization.

InSite: What major Medtronic systems will we keep? What major Covidien systems will be kept?

Mike: We know for a fact that we will keep SAP. Medtronic is fully integrated into one enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, which is the foundation of everything we run from an IT perspective. This system will be a huge benefit in streamlining processes and increasing transparency around our data.

Steve: Another specific application we believe we're going to keep in place is BPCS – or Business Process Control Solutions. It's the manufacturing solution that is running at all of our plants.

Mike: Beyond that, it will be an ongoing process to determine which systems we will continue to use.

Steve: Even though we will be moving to SAP, we will likely need to keep some current Covidien systems running for a few years post-close. To be successful, we will need people who can support our business partners – either by supporting those legacy systems or learning the new company-wide systems.

InSite: How will the IT integration move the combined company forward after the transaction closes?

Mike: The main thing is it will give us common platforms, which use common processes and common technology. This will drive the consolidation of best practices and cost savings across businesses and geographies.

Steve: It will allow the combined company to act as one, which will enhance our agility and our ability to grow and prosper.

InSite: How will we define success of the integration from a Global IT perspective?

Mike: We will look at two things: First, we will deliver the common tools, technologies and processes with minimum downtime and disruption to the business – employees need to continue being productive in their jobs starting with the first day of the new company. Second, we will achieve our cost savings targets by leveraging each company's areas of strength to improve processes.

Steve: I would add that we also must work toward minimal disruption to our end customers. Customers don't care that we're bringing two companies together; they just want their product when they need it.

Mike: We have extremely loyal and dedicated IT employees at both Medtronic and Covidien. Many CIOs out there would love to have our teams. Bringing these resources together will move our new company forward and bring significant benefits to the new Medtronic, and to healthcare in general.

InSite: What can non-IT employees do to help contribute to a smooth IT integration?

Steve: Businesses need to be very active partners in these system migrations. Our IT systems alone won't make the new Medtronic successful; it will require strong alignment with our business partners.

Mike: We know there may be a learning curve for employees asked to learn new systems. I would encourage employees to be patient, and accept these changes with enthusiasm.

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This communication is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy or an invitation to purchase or subscribe for any securities or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction pursuant to the acquisition, the merger or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. No offer of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Medtronic Holdings Limited, which will be renamed Medtronic plc (New Medtronic), has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a registration statement on Form S-4 that includes the Joint Proxy Statement of Medtronic, Inc. (Medtronic) and Covidien plc (Covidien) that also constitutes a Prospectus of New Medtronic. The registration statement has been declared effective by the SEC. Medtronic and Covidien have commenced making available to their respective shareholders the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) in connection with the transactions. **INVESTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS (INCLUDING THE SCHEME) AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEDTRONIC, COVIDIEN, NEW MEDTRONIC, THE TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS.** Investors and security holders are able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed with the SEC by New Medtronic, Medtronic and Covidien through the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and shareholders are able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed by Medtronic and New Medtronic with the SEC by contacting Medtronic Investor Relations at investor.relations@medtronic.com or by calling 763-505-2696, and will be able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed by Covidien by contacting Covidien Investor Relations at investor.relations@covidien.com or by calling 508-452-4650.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION

Medtronic, New Medtronic and Covidien and certain of their respective directors and executive officers and employees may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies from the respective shareholders of Medtronic and Covidien in respect of the transactions contemplated by the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of the respective shareholders of Medtronic and Covidien in connection with the proposed transactions, including a description of their direct or indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, is set forth in the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding Medtronic's directors and executive officers is contained in Medtronic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 25, 2014 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated July 11, 2014, which are filed with the SEC. Information regarding Covidien's directors and executive officers is contained in Covidien's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2013 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated January 24, 2014, which are filed with the SEC.

Medtronic Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Statements contained in this communication that refer to New Medtronic's and/or Medtronic's estimated or anticipated future results, including estimated synergies, or other non-historical facts are forward-looking statements that reflect Medtronic's current perspective of existing trends and information as of the date of this communication.

Forward-looking statements generally will be accompanied by words such as anticipate, believe, plan, could, should, estimate, expect, forecast, outlook, guidance, intend, may, might, will, possible, potential, or similar words, phrases or expressions. It is important to note that Medtronic's goals and expectations are not predictions of actual performance. Actual results may differ materially from Medtronic's current expectations depending upon a number of factors affecting New Medtronic's business, Medtronic's business, Covidien's business and risks associated with the proposed transactions. These factors include, among others, the inherent uncertainty associated with financial projections; restructuring in connection with, and successful close of, the Covidien acquisition; subsequent integration of the Covidien acquisition and the ability to recognize the anticipated synergies and benefits of the Covidien acquisition; the risk that the required regulatory approvals for the proposed transactions are not obtained, are delayed or are subject to conditions that are not anticipated; the anticipated size of the markets and continued demand for Medtronic's and Covidien's products; the impact of competitive products and pricing; access to available financing (including financing for the acquisition or refinancing of Medtronic or Covidien debt) on a timely basis and on reasonable terms; the risks of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; the risks and uncertainties normally incident to the medical device industry, including competition in the medical device industry; product liability claims; the difficulty of predicting the timing or outcome of pending or future litigation or government investigations; variability of trade buying patterns; the timing and success of product launches; the difficulty of predicting the timing or outcome of product development efforts and regulatory agency approvals or actions, if any; potential for adverse pricing movement; costs and efforts to defend or enforce intellectual property rights; difficulties or delays in manufacturing; reduction or interruption in supply; product quality problems; the availability and pricing of third-party sourced products and materials; risks associated with self-insurance and commercial insurance; successful compliance with governmental regulations applicable to New Medtronic's, Medtronic's and Covidien's facilities, products and/or businesses; changes in the laws and regulations, affecting among other things, pricing and reimbursement of pharmaceutical products; health care policy changes; risks associated with international operations; changes in tax laws or interpretations that could increase New Medtronic's or Medtronic's consolidated tax liabilities, including, if the transaction is consummated, changes in tax laws that would result in New Medtronic being treated as a domestic corporation for United States federal tax purposes; the loss of key senior management or scientific staff; and such other risks and uncertainties detailed in Medtronic's periodic public filings with the SEC, including but not limited to Medtronic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 25, 2014 and from time to time in Medtronic's other investor communications. Except as expressly required by law, each of New Medtronic and Medtronic disclaims any intent or obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements.

Covidien Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Statements contained in this communication that refer to Covidien's estimated or anticipated future results, including estimated synergies, or other non-historical facts are forward-looking statements that reflect Covidien's current perspective of existing trends and information as of the date of this communication. Forward-looking statements generally will be accompanied by words such as anticipate, believe, plan, could, should, estimate, expect, outlook, guidance, intend, may, might, will, possible, potential, predict, project, or other similar expressions. It is important to note that Covidien's goals and expectations are not predictions of actual performance. Actual results may differ materially from Covidien's current expectations depending upon a number of factors affecting Covidien's business, Medtronic's business and risks associated with the proposed transactions. These factors include, among others, the inherent uncertainty associated with financial projections; the timing to consummate the proposed transactions; the risk that a condition to closing of the proposed transactions may not be satisfied; the risk that the required regulatory approvals for the proposed transactions are not obtained, are delayed or are subject to conditions that are not anticipated; New Medtronic's ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transactions; the anticipated size of the markets and continued demand for Medtronic's and Covidien's products; New Medtronic's ability to promptly and effectively integrate Medtronic's and Covidien's businesses; the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues; competitive factors and market conditions in the industry in which Covidien operates; Covidien's ability to obtain regulatory approval and customer acceptance of new products, and continued customer acceptance of Covidien's existing products; and the other risks identified in Covidien's periodic filings including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2013, and from time to time in Covidien's other investor communications. We caution you that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. In addition, in light of these risks and uncertainties, the matters referred to in Covidien's forward-looking statements may not occur. Covidien undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law.

Statement Required by the Irish Takeover Rules

The directors of Medtronic accept responsibility for the information contained in this document other than that relating to Covidien and the Covidien Group and the directors of Covidien and members of their immediate families, related trusts and persons connected with them. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of Medtronic (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this communication for which they accept responsibility is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

The directors of Covidien accept responsibility for the information contained in this document relating to Covidien and the directors of Covidien and members of their immediate families, related trusts and persons connected with them. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of Covidien (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure such is the case), the information contained in this communication for which they accept responsibility is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.