

## **Press release**

**September 10, 2018**

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### **Gx<sup>®</sup> InnoSafe: Greater protection against needle stick injuries**

Gerresheimer to present an integrated and passive safety system for avoiding needle stick injuries at CPhI Worldwide in Madrid

**Düsseldorf/Wackersdorf/Madrid, September 10, 2018. With their exposed cannulas, used syringes are a source of risk at physicians' surgeries, laboratories, and hospitals the world over. Although existing needle protection systems reduce the risk of injury for the end user, they are more complex for pharma companies to fill and must be handled by medical specialists. With the Gx InnoSafe, Gerresheimer is now offering a syringe with an integrated passive safety system that avoids inadvertent needle stick injuries, prevents repeated use, and is designed with pharmaceutical companies' production processes in mind as well as being optimized for simple and intuitive use by medical specialists.**

"For health care workers, handling used hypodermic needles is part of their day-to-day job. In some cases, this leads to serious diseases being transmitted. It is estimated that around one million needle stick injuries occur in Europe every year," explains Maximilian Vogl, Product Manager Injection Devices, adding that in the worst case, it can lead to serious infections. There is also the risk of used syringes being used for a second time by accident.

Gx InnoSafe reliably protects against inadvertent needle stick injuries and prevents repeated use. Unlike many existing solutions, the needle shield mechanism is activated automatically and does not require any additional manipulation by the end user.

It is therefore known as a passive needle protection system. The processing of the Gx InnoSafe syringes, which can be carried out without any major changes to existing lines in a nested state, is just as beneficial to pharmacists. This eliminates the need for an additional step to assemble the safety system, as is currently standard on the market.

The user wants a safety system that does not change the familiar injection procedure, that is intuitive and ergonomic to handle, and that requires no additional manual activation to secure the cannula before it is disposed of. As part of the manufacturing process, the Gx InnoSafe safety system is installed on Gx RTF glass syringes in the clean room like a standard needle shield. The syringe body is completely visible so that the presence of the active ingredient, its purity, and its administration can be observed and monitored ideally. The injection itself is also administered as usual. After removing the ergonomic sealing cap with an integrated, flexible needle shield, the syringe is placed on the injection site, the cannula is inserted into the tissue to be administered, and the active ingredient is injected as with a common syringe. The safety system cannot be activated inadvertently because the mechanism is not preloaded before the injection. The system is only activated when the cannula is inserted and it automatically ensures

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that the safety mechanism is permanently locked when the syringe is removed from the injection site. This guarantees that the cannula is reliably covered and the syringe cannot be reused.

Gx InnoSafe provides advantages for pharmaceutical companies in the filling process of ready-to-fill syringes. The safety system is installed during the RTF process entirely automatically and fully checked for any punctures and positioning with a visual inspection. The syringes are then packaged into trays of 100 (nests) and tubs, including the safety system, and are then sealed and sterilized with ethylene oxide gas. They can be processed on existing filling lines without any additional preparation or assembly steps.

The design of the safety mechanism avoids inadvertent activation during filling, packaging, and transport. The flexible needle shield part is available in all standard market elastomers for pharmaceutical applications. With the introduction of the new product line, Gx InnoSafe is available for the 1.0 ml long RTF glass syringe with ½ "cannula. Further needle variants will follow.

Gerresheimer will showcase its product and services from October 9-11 at CPhI Worldwide in Madrid, IFEMA, Hall 4, booth C30

Gx<sup>®</sup> and RTF<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of the Gerresheimer Group. InnoSafe is a pending trademark of the Gerresheimer Group.

### **About Gerresheimer**

Gerresheimer is a leading global partner to the pharma and healthcare industry. With specialty glass and plastic products, the Company contributes to health and well-being. Gerresheimer operates worldwide and its approximately 10,000 employees manufacture products in local markets, close to its customers. With our plants in Europe, North America, South America, and Asia, we generate revenues of approximately EUR 1.4 billion. The comprehensive product portfolio includes pharmaceutical packaging products as well as convenient and safe drug delivery systems such as insulin pens, inhalers, micro pumps, pre-fillable syringes, vials, ampoules, bottles, and containers for liquid and solid pharmaceuticals with closure and safety systems, plus cosmetic packaging products.

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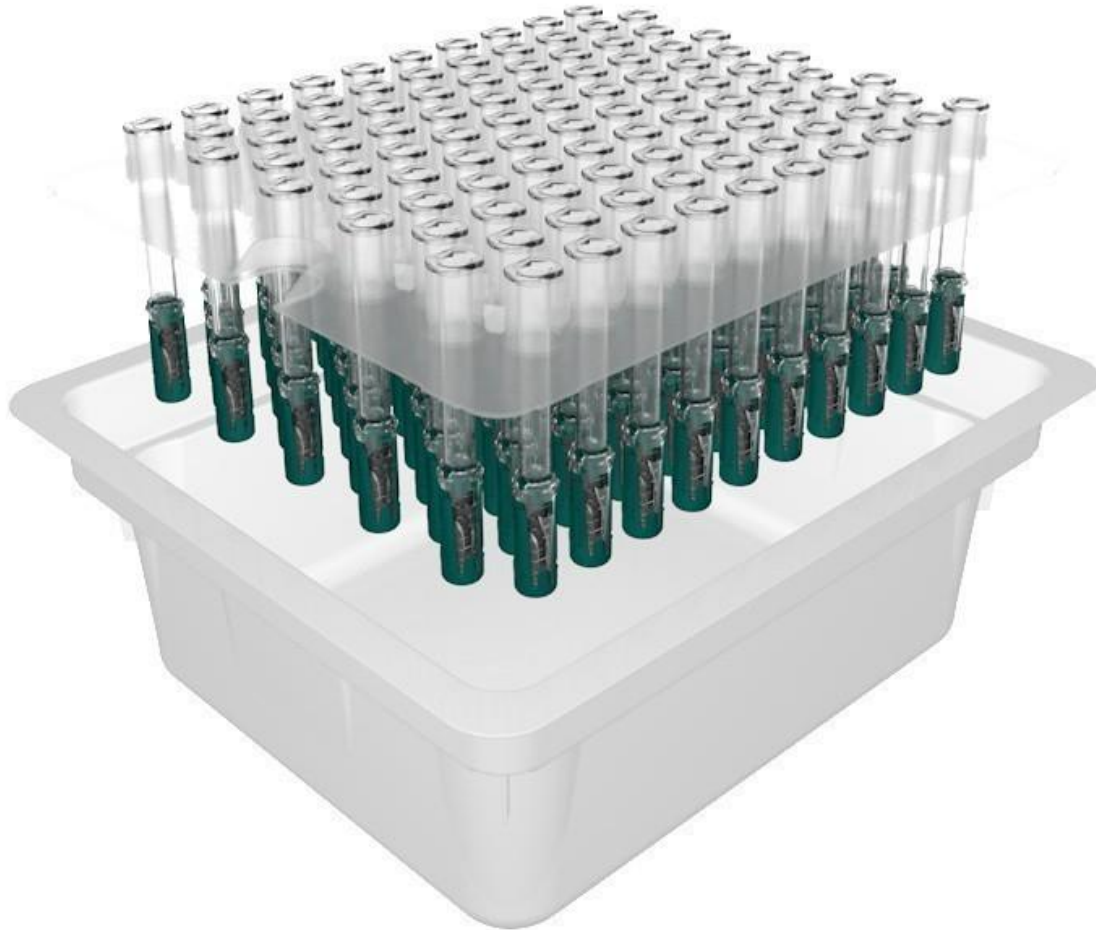


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The needles are packaged in trays and standard tubs, including the safety lock, and sterilized with ethylene oxide gas. They can be processed on existing filling lines without any additional preparation or assembly steps.

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