

Press Release  
February 24, 2014  
The Airway Company  
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**THE AIRWAY COMPANY ANNOUNCES THE FILING OF A PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT) APPLICATION, ALONG WITH THE SUBMISSION OF CE MARKING FOR ITS NEW SHIKANI HUMIDITY MOISTURE EXCHANGER AND SPEAKING VALVE.**

*The new Shikani Speaking Valve helps patients communicate clearly while minimizing the effort required for breathing. The new Shikani HME regulates heat and moisture levels for a more consistent environment.*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 24, 2014) – The Airway Company, an emerging provider of innovative tracheostomy products, announces the filing of a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application No/Patent No 11849634 6 -1659 PCT/SN PCT/US2011065625 to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) covering the Shikani HME and the new Shikani Speaking Valve. The filing of this international patent, entitled “Low Profile Heat and Moisture Exchanger Device for Tracheotomy and Speaking Valve” enables The Airway Company to pursue further stages of development while securing key intellectual property priority dates in the tracheotomy speaking valve and HME space. The patent covers a heat moisture exchange device which can be used in unison with a novel speaking valve and a tracheotomy tube. The heat moisture exchange device has a housing in which the air moves in a turbulent manner and passes through a heat moisture exchange filter, enhancing warming and humidification of breathed air.

Acting as an “artificial nose,” the Shikani HME captures warm and moist air in special media, as it is exhaled from the body and regulates heat and moisture levels for a more consistent environment. The new Shikani speaking valve uniquely allows the tracheotomized patient to realize the benefits of automatic speech and humidification concurrently. Until now, patients had to choose between using a speaking valve and using an HME.

The new PCT patent raises The Airway Company Technologies patent portfolio to 2 issued US patents, 2 pending patent US applications and one PCT patent application. The US issued patents include “A unidirectional airflow tracheotomy valve” and “A speaking valve for a tracheotomy tube.” The pending US patent applications include “A low profile Heat and Moisturizing Device for Tracheotomy and Speaking Valve” and an “Adjustable and Biased-Open Unidirectional Ventilator Speaking Valve.” The new Shikani adjustable ventilator speaking valve has a revolutionary design that addresses the issue of closed airway circuits encountered with flapper valves currently on the market, and which has been reported to cause patient deaths.

The Airway Company also announces that it has submitted a Conformance Européenne (CE) Mark Technical File to its European Notified Body to obtain market approval for the Shikani Speaking Valve and the Shikani HME. CE Marking indicates a medical device's compliance with European Union (EU) legislation and directives with respect to safety, health, environmental and consumer protection and is necessary for commercialization in countries in the EU. The Airway Company has already receiving

CE Marking for the Shikani Speaking Valve and anticipates receiving CE Marking for the Shikani HME by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014.

“We are pleased that our research and development culminated in innovative designs and resulted in the filing of new patent applications and growing of our intellectual property portfolio,” said Dr. Alan Shikani, chairman and chief medical officer of the Airway Company. “With the completion of this important CE Marking regulatory step, we now gain access to Europe and global market, as well as continue to focus on growing our market in the U.S.”

The Airway Company is setting new standards for Speaking Valves and tracheostomy tube HMEs.

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**About The Airway Company**

The Airway Company is a division of Shikani Medical, LLC. Established in 2010, The Airway Company is devoted to developing innovative products for tracheostomy patients. For more information about The Airway Company’s complete line of products, visit [www.TheAirwayCompany.com](http://www.TheAirwayCompany.com) or contact [info@theairwaycompany.com](mailto:info@theairwaycompany.com)