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COMPANIES FORM No. 155(6)a

Declaration in relation to assistance for the acquisition of shares

155_{(6)a}

Pursuant to section 155(6) of the Companies Act 1985

Please complete legibly, preferably in black type, or bold block lettering	To the Registrar of Companies (address overleaf - Note 5)	For official use	Company Number	
Note Please read the	Name of company		44/2389	
notes on page 3 before completing this form.	* SMITH & NEPHEW FINANCE ORATEC LIMITED			
* Insert full name of company	We paul richard chambers of 74 Shenfield Place, Shenfield, Brentwood, ESSEX, CM15 9AJ			
ØInsert name(s) and address(es) of all the directors	CLIFFORD KENNETH LOMAX OF 185 WORLDS END LANE, CHELSFIELD, ORPINGTON, KENT BR6 6AT			
	LUCILLE FULLER OF 40 WOODLAND GAR	RDENS, LONDON, N10	3UA	
† delete as appropriate	[the sole director][all the directors]† of the above company do solemnly and sincerely declare that: The business of the company is:			
‡ delete whichever is inappropriate	(a) that of a [recognised bank][licensed institution]† within the meaning of the Banking Act 1979‡ (b) that of a person authorised under section 3 or 4 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to carry on insurance business in the United Kingdom‡ (c) something other than the above‡			
	The company is proposing to give financial assistance in connection with the acquisition of shares in the [company] fcompany's holding company			
	The assistance is for the purpose of [that acq the purpose of that acquisition].†	uisition] [reducing or disc	Limited] harging a liability incurred for	
	The number and class of the shares acquired	for to be acquired is: 1	0,000,002 ORDINARY	

Presentor's name, address and reference (if any):

SHARES OF £1 EACH

SMITH & NEPHEW PLC 15 ADAM STREET LONDON WC2N 6LA For official use

General Section Post room

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COMPANIES HOUSE 30/09/02



	The assistance is to be given to: (note 2) SMITH & NEPHEW FINANCE HOLDINGS LIMITED, A			
Please do not write in this margin	COMPANY INCORPORATED IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT			
	UGLAND HOUSE, SOUTH CHURCH STREET, PO BOX 309, GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN,			
Please complete legibly, preferably in black type, or bold block lettering	CAYMAN ISLANDS			
	The assistance will take the form of:			
	A CREDIT FACILITY IN FAVOUR OF SMITH & NEPHEW PLC AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES (THE "FACILITY").			
	THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO BE ADVANCED UNDER THE FACILITY IS US\$ 301,065,170.			
	THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO BE ADVANCED UNDER THE FACILITY IS 05\$ 301,065,170.			
	į į			
† delete as				
appropriate	The person who [has acquired][will acquire]† the share is:			
	SMITH & NEPHEW FINANCE HOLDINGS LIMITED			
	The principle terms on which the assistance will be given are:			
	1. THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE FACILITY IS US\$ 301,065,170. THE FACILITY IS AVAILABLE (SUBJECT TO EARLY CANCELLATION OR TERMINATION) FOR 10 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE AGREEMENT, AND ALL AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING SHALL BE REPAID ON THAT DATE.			
	2. THE COMPANY SHALL NOT BE OBLIGED TO ADVANCE MONIES UNDER THE FACILITY EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT HAS SUBSCRIPTION MONIES (RELATING TO A SUBSCRIPTION OF SHARES BY SMITH & NEPHEW INC) AVAILABLE TO IT IN CLEARED FUNDS.			
	The amount of cash to be transferred to the person assisted is £ US\$301,067,170			
	The value of any asset to be transferred to the person assisted is £ NIC			
	The date on which the assistance is to be given is 27902			

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I / We have formed the opinion, as regards the company's initial situation immediately following the date on which the assistance is proposed to be given, that there will be no ground on which it could then be found to be unable to pay its debts. (note3)

Please complete legibly, preferably in black type, or bold

block lettering

* delete either (a) or (b) as appropriate

- (a) [A We have formed the opinion that the company will be able to pay its debts as they fall due during the year immediately following that date]* (note 3)
- -(b) [It is intended to commence the winding-up of the company within 12 months of that date, and I / we have formed the opinion that the company will be able to pay its debts in full within 12 months of the commencement of the winding up.]* (note 3)

And by we make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declarants to sign below Month on before me A Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public or Justice of the Peace or a Solicitor having the powers conferred on a Commissioner for Oaths.

NOTES

- 1. For the meaning of "a person incurring a liability" and "reducing or discharging a liability" see section 152(3) of the Companies Act 1985.
- 2 Insert full name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) to whom assistance is to be given; if a recipient is a company the registered office address should be shown.
- 3. Contingent and prospective liabilities of the company are to be taken into account - see section 156(3) of the Companies Act 1985.
- 4. The auditors report required by section 156(4) of the Companies Act 1985 must be annexed to this form.

5. The address for companies registered in England and Wales or Wales is:-

The Registrar of Companies Companies House Crown Way Cardiff CF14 3UZ

or, for companies registered in Scotland:-

The Registrar of Companies 37 Castle Terrace Edinburgh EH1 2EB

Auditors' report to the directors of Smith & Nephew Finance Oratec Limited pursuant to section 156(4) of the Companies Act 1985

We have examined the attached statutory declaration of the directors of Smith & Nephew Finance Oratec Limited ("the Company") dated & September 2002 in connection with the proposal that the Company should give financial assistance for the purchase of the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company.

Basis of opinion

We have enquired into the state of the Company's affairs in order to review the bases for the statutory declaration.

Opinion

We are not aware of anything to indicate that the opinion expressed by the directors in their declaration as to any of the matters mentioned in section 156(2) of the Companies Act 1985 is unreasonable in all the circumstances.

Ernst & Young LLP Registered Auditor

Enst & You LLP

London

2 September 2002