



Intuitive Surgical Announces Fourth Quarter Earnings

January 20, 2011

SUNNYVALE, Calif., Jan 20, 2011 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX) --

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), the industry leader in surgical robotics, today reported fourth quarter of 2010 revenue of \$389 million, up 21% compared with \$323 million for the fourth quarter of 2009. Fourth quarter of 2010 revenue growth was driven by continued robotic procedure adoption and higher da Vinci Surgical System sales.

Fourth quarter of 2010 instruments and accessories revenue increased 33% to \$151 million from \$113 million in the fourth quarter of 2009. The growth in instruments and accessories revenue was primarily driven by growth in da Vinci surgical procedures of approximately 35%. Fourth quarter of 2010 systems revenue was \$178 million, an increase of 10%, compared to \$162 million during the fourth quarter of 2009. Fourth quarter of 2010 service revenue increased 27% to \$61 million from \$48 million during the fourth quarter of 2009, reflecting growth in the installed base of da Vinci Surgical Systems.

Fourth quarter of 2010 operating income increased to \$154 million from \$128 million during the fourth quarter of 2009. Operating results for the fourth quarter of 2010 included \$30 million of non-cash stock-based compensation expense compared with \$25 million for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Intuitive reported a full fiscal year 2010 income tax rate of 33.3% of pretax income, compared to 37.2% recorded through the first three quarters of 2010. The rate reduction realized in the fourth quarter reflected the retroactive reinstatement of the federal research and development tax credit, a reduction in the amount of non-deductible option expenses, and a favorable geographic split of earnings.

Fourth quarter of 2010 net income was \$121 million, or \$3.02 per diluted share, compared with \$78 million, or \$1.95 per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2010 totaled \$1,413 million, increasing 34% from \$1,052 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. Net income for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$382 million, or \$9.47 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$233 million, or \$5.93 per diluted share for the year ended December 31, 2009.

We ended fiscal 2010 with \$1,609 million in cash, cash equivalents and investments, reflecting an increase of \$437 million during the year, net of \$199 million used to repurchase 742,000 shares of common stock.

Commenting on the announcement, Gary Guthart, President and CEO of Intuitive Surgical, said, "We are pleased with our fourth quarter revenue and earnings growth. These results reflect strong procedure growth and the expansion of da Vinci Surgery across a broadening group of surgical procedures."

The Company will also announce these results at a conference call today at 1:30 pm PST. The dial-in numbers for the call are 800-288-8975 for participants located in the United States and 612-332-0107 for participants located outside the United States. The host is Dr. Gary Guthart. To access financial information that will be discussed on the call, please visit Intuitive Surgical's website at www.intuitivesurgical.com.

About Intuitive's Products

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is the global technology leader in robotic-assisted, minimally invasive surgery. Intuitive Surgical develops, manufactures, and markets robotic technologies designed to improve clinical outcomes and help patients return more quickly to active and productive lives. The Company's mission is to extend the benefits of minimally invasive surgery to the broadest possible base of patients. Intuitive Surgical -- Taking surgery beyond the limits of the human hand(TM).

About the da Vinci(R) Surgical System

The da Vinci(R) Surgical System is a breakthrough surgical platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. The da Vinci(R) Surgical System consists of an ergonomic surgeon console or consoles, a patient-side cart with three or four interactive robotic arms, a high-performance vision system and proprietary EndoWrist(R) instruments. Powered by state-of-the-art robotic and computer technology, the da Vinci(R) Surgical System is designed to scale, filter and seamlessly translate the surgeon's hand movements into more precise movements of the EndoWrist(R) instruments. The net result is an intuitive interface with breakthrough surgical capabilities. By providing surgeons with superior visualization, enhanced dexterity, greater precision and ergonomic comfort, the da Vinci(R) Surgical System makes it possible for more surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures involving complex dissection or reconstruction. This ultimately has the potential to raise the standard of care for complex surgeries, translating into numerous potential patient benefits, including less pain, a shorter recovery and quicker return to normal daily activities.

Intuitive(R), da Vinci(R), da Vinci S(R), da Vinci(R) Si(TM), da Vinci(R) Si-e HD Surgical System(TM), InSite(R) and EndoWrist(R) are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are necessarily estimates reflecting the best judgment of our management and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements should, therefore, be considered in light of various important factors, including the following: the impact of global and regional economic conditions and related credit markets and related impact on health care spending; health care reform legislation in the United States and its implications on hospital spending, reimbursement and fees which will be levied on certain medical device revenues; timing and success of product development and market acceptance of developed products; procedure counts; regulatory approvals, clearances and restrictions; guidelines and recommendations in the health care and patient communities; intellectual property positions and litigation; competition in the medical device industry and in the specific markets of surgery in

which Intuitive Surgical operates; unanticipated manufacturing disruptions; delays in regulatory approvals of new manufacturing facilities or the inability to meet demand for products; the results of the year end audit and the other factors under the heading "Risk Factors" in our report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as updated from time to time by our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Statements concerning forecasts, revenue growth, procedure growth, future financial results, and statements using words such as "estimate," "project," "plan," "intend," "expect," "anticipate," "believe" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this press release or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.
 UNAUDITED QUARTERLY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
 (IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

	Three months ended		
	December 31,	September 31,	December 31,
	2010	2010	2009

Revenue:			
Instruments & Accessories	\$ 151.1	\$ 127.5	\$ 113.2
Systems	177.6	159.6	162.0
Services	60.6	57.3	47.8

Total revenue	389.3	344.4	323.0
Cost of revenue:			
Products	83.8	72.8	71.4
Services	23.3	21.0	18.5

Total cost of revenue			
(1) (2)	107.1	93.8	89.9
Gross profit	282.2	250.6	233.1
Operating expenses:			
Selling, general and administrative	95.8	91.6	79.0
Research and development			
(2)	32.6	26.9	25.8

Total operating expenses			
(1)	128.4	118.5	104.8
Income from operations	153.8	132.1	128.3
Interest and other income, net	3.4	5.0	4.2

Income before income taxes	157.2	137.1	132.5
Provision for income taxes	36.0	50.5	55.0

Net Income	\$ 121.2	\$ 86.6	\$ 77.5
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Earnings per share:

Basic	\$ 3.10	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.02
	=====	=====	=====

Diluted	\$ 3.02	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.95
	=====	=====	=====

Shares used in computing earnings per share:

Basic	39.1	39.4	38.3
	=====	=====	=====

Diluted	40.1	40.5	39.7
	=====	=====	=====

(1) Includes stock compensation expense of \$4.8 million, \$4.7 million and \$3.7 million in total cost of revenue and \$25.4 million, \$25.7 million and \$21.4 million in total operating expenses for the three months ended December 31, 2010, September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively.

(2) Includes amortization of purchased intellectual property of \$4.4 million, \$4.3 million and \$3.8 million in total cost of revenue and research and development expenses for the three months ended December 31, 2010, September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively.

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.
 UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
 (IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

Year ended

 December 31,

 2010 2009

Revenue:

Instruments & Accessories	\$ 528.8	\$ 389.4
Systems	660.3	490.5

Services	223.9	172.3
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Total revenue	1,413.0	1,052.2
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Cost of revenue:

Products	297.3	237.6
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Services	85.7	63.5
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Total cost of revenue		
(1) (2)	383.0	301.1

Gross profit	1,030.0	751.1
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Operating expenses:

Selling, general and administrative	358.8	278.6
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Research and development			
(2)	116.0	95.1	
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Total operating expenses			
(1)	474.8	373.7	
Income from operations	555.2	377.4	
Interest and other income, net	17.1	18.7	
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Income before income taxes	572.3	396.1	
Provision for income taxes	190.5	163.5	
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Net Income	\$ 381.8	\$ 232.6	
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Earnings per share:

Basic	\$ 9.74	\$ 6.07
	=====	=====
Diluted	\$ 9.47	\$ 5.93
	=====	=====

Shares used in computing
earnings per share:

Basic	39.2	38.3
	=====	=====
Diluted	40.3	39.2
	=====	=====

(1) Includes stock compensation expense of \$18.0 million and \$14.3 million in total cost of revenue and \$99.6 million and \$82.7 million in total operating expenses for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

(2) Includes amortization of purchased intellectual property of \$16.3 million and \$15.1 million in total cost of revenue and research and development expenses for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.
UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(IN MILLIONS)

	12/31/2010	12/31/2009
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Cash, cash equivalents, and investments	\$ 1,608.9	\$ 1,172.0
Accounts receivable, net	246.8	205.4

Inventory	86.8	57.6
Property and equipment, net	159.8	125.7
Goodwill	116.9	110.7
Deferred tax assets	81.8	60.7
Other assets	89.4	77.6
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Total assets	\$ 2,390.4	\$ 1,809.7
	=====	=====

Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	\$ 226.1	\$ 172.0
Deferred revenue	126.9	100.4
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Total liabilities	353.0	272.4
Stockholders' equity	2,037.4	1,537.3
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Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,390.4	\$ 1,809.7
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