



Intuitive Surgical Announces New da Vinci(r) Si(tm) Surgical System

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SUNNYVALE, Calif., April 2, 2009 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), the global leader in robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery, today announced a new addition to its da Vinci(r) product line -- the da Vinci(r) Si(tm) Surgical System.

The da Vinci Si System introduces several new features designed to provide additional clinical benefits and operational efficiencies: Enhanced 3D HD resolution offers superior visual clarity of target tissue and anatomy, potentially allowing for greater surgical precision; an updated and simplified user interface enhances operating room efficiency; newly upgradeable architecture and compatibility with existing OR suite technology facilitates the seamless integration of the da Vinci Si System into the OR of the 21st century; an optional dual console allows a second surgeon to provide a da Vinci-enabled assist and may also facilitate teaching da Vinci Surgery; and finally, the addition of new ergonomic settings to the surgeon console allows greater surgeon comfort during procedures.

The da Vinci Si System retains and builds upon the core technology at the heart of the existing da Vinci(r) and da Vinci(r) S(tm) Systems. This includes advanced 3D HD visualization with up to 10x magnification, offering surgeons an immersive view of the operative field, superior to that offered by conventional surgical approaches; EndoWrist(r) instrumentation, providing da Vinci surgeons with natural dexterity and range of motion far greater than even the human hand; and Intuitive(r) motion technology, which replicates the operative experience and control of open surgery by preserving natural eye-hand-instrument alignment and intuitive instrument control.

Together, these technological advancements provide da Vinci surgeons with unparalleled precision, dexterity and control that enable a minimally invasive approach for many complex surgical procedures. Commenting on the introduction of the da Vinci Si System, Intuitive Surgical Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Lonnie Smith said, "We are very pleased to introduce the da Vinci Si System to our product line. We believe that the new features of the da Vinci Si System will further streamline surgical procedures, improve efficiencies and shorten the learning curve for surgeons and their operating room teams. This new system is further proof of our commitment to provide physicians and their patients with surgical solutions that are less invasive, more precise and enable faster recovery than existing surgical approaches."

Intuitive Surgical customers who own a da Vinci S 4-arm System will have the opportunity to upgrade to the new da Vinci Si system. In addition, Intuitive Surgical will continue to provide service and support for both the da Vinci and the da Vinci S Systems, and will continue investments in product development to expand the utility and longevity of all da Vinci Systems, instruments and accessories.

For more information about the da Vinci Si System, please contact your local representative. For the name of your representative, please call +1 888 409 4774. Further information is also available at www.intuitivesurgical.com.

About Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is the global technology leader in robotic-assisted, minimally invasive surgery (MIS). 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) System is a breakthrough surgical platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. The da Vinci(r) System consists of an ergonomic surgeon console, a patient-side cart with 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) 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 Surgical System makes it possible for more surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures involving complex dissection or reconstruction. This 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(r) S(tm), da Vinci(r) Si(tm), InSite(r) and EndoWrist(r) are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Any forward-looking statement is subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Intuitive Surgical's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Actual results may differ materially from the anticipated results described. Intuitive Surgical undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements to reflect actual events or circumstances that occur after the date of this press release.

While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the da Vinci(r) System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. Surgery with the da Vinci(r) Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits.

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