



Intuitive Surgical Announces New EndoWrist(R) One(TM) Vessel Sealer for the da Vinci(R) Si(TM) Surgical System

January 4, 2012

SUNNYVALE, Calif., Jan. 4, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), the global leader in minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery, today announced that it received FDA clearance to market its EndoWrist® One™ Vessel Sealer instrument for use with the da Vinci® Si™ Surgical System.

The EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer is a wristed, single-use instrument intended for bipolar coagulation and mechanical transection of vessels up to 7 mm in diameter and tissue bundles that fit in the jaws of the instrument. The EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer enables da Vinci Si surgeons to fully control vessel sealing, while providing the benefits of da Vinci Surgery — enhanced surgical precision, control and stability and 3D HD visualization.

Gary Guthart, CEO, Intuitive Surgical Inc., stated, "We are pleased to start 2012 with this clearance for our EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer. We plan to initiate a controlled rollout of this product in the US in the first quarter of 2012, while also submitting for CE Mark."

With the purchase of a dedicated radio frequency energy generator, the EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer is compatible with all da Vinci Si Surgical Systems. Customers seeking additional information should contact their local da Vinci Sales Representative.

About Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is the global technology leader in minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery. Intuitive Surgical develops, manufactures and markets robotic technologies for a broad range of minimally invasive procedures, which help patients return 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.™

About the da Vinci® Surgical System

The da Vinci® Surgical System is a breakthrough surgical platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. The da Vinci 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 instruments. Powered by state-of-the-art robotic and computer technology, the da Vinci Surgical System is designed to scale, filter and seamlessly translate the surgeon's hand movements into more precise movements of the EndoWrist 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. Frequently cited patient benefits include less pain, a shorter recovery and quicker return to normal daily activities.

Intuitive®, Intuitive Surgical®, da Vinci®, da Vinci® S™, da Vinci® S™ HD Surgical System, da Vinci® Si™, da Vinci® Si-e™, EndoWrist EndoWrist® One™, Single-Site™, DVSTAT® and InSite® 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. The adoption of our EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer product for general, gynecological and urological procedures is subject to patient demand and surgeon adoption, which cannot be predicted; and use of the EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer for procedures other than general, gynecological and urological procedures will be subject to our ability to obtain future FDA clearances. In addition, forward-looking statements should be considered in light of other various important factors, including, but not limited to: 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; and the results of the year-end audit and other risk factors under the heading "Risk Factors" in our report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, 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," "targeted" 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.

While clinical studies* support the effectiveness of the da Vinci Surgical System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. There are no guarantees of outcome. All surgeries involve the risk of major complications. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor. Understanding the risks of each treatment can help you make the best decision for your individual situation. Surgery with the da Vinci Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual; it may not be applicable to your condition. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits. Only your doctor can determine whether da Vinci Surgery is appropriate for your situation. © 2012 Intuitive Surgical. All rights reserved. PN 875800 Rev A 1/1 *Data on file.

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