



***Ulrich medical* - Leading German Spinal Implant Manufacturer Establishes U.S. Subsidiary in St. Louis**

St. Louis, MO (September 17, 2007) – In 2007, *Ulrich medical*, a leading spinal implant and surgical device manufacturer of Ulm, Germany, launched *Ulrich medical USA*, a U.S. subsidiary headquartered in Chesterfield.

The company early this year named Merle Symes, CEO, and Helmut Schoenhoeffer, PhD, Vice President of Business Development & Marketing.

Ulrich medical has 95 years of experience in manufacturing high quality surgical devices and introduced its first spinal implants in 1978. It now sells spine implants around the world.

“While the company has a long-standing history and tradition in spine implants and instruments, its success comes from its forward thinking culture and emphasis on innovation. The investment in *Ulrich medical USA* is a clear indication of its intent to bring this innovation to the U.S.,” Symes said.

“We have unparalleled experience in manufacturing spinal implants and surgical devices, but we know that success in the U.S. will require customizing our technology to meet this market’s needs. We have a strong commitment to listening to surgeons and responding to their needs. We’re extremely excited about the impact that *Ulrich* products will be able to have on the future of spine surgery in the U.S. and ultimately on the health and well-being of the patient,” Schoenhoeffer added.

The company’s newest device, *obelisc*, a vertebral body replacement used for the surgical reconstruction of bone mass defects in the anterior thoracic and lumbar spine, was approved for use in the U.S. in December, 2006. Dr. Carsten Neumann, Chief Trauma Surgeon at University of Regensburg, will present “*obelisc* for vertebral body replacement: quick, safe and reliable (with two-year clinical results)” at the *Ulrich medical USA* booth at the CNS Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, booth #1716, Hall E.

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Notes to editors:

About *Ulrich medical USA*

Ulrich medical USA is the newly-formed U.S. subsidiary of *Ulrich medical*, an independent medical technology company headquartered in Ulm, Germany. With the establishment of its U.S. subsidiary, *Ulrich medical* is expanding its commitment to providing U.S. surgeons with the finest, state-of-the art surgical spinal systems available.

Ulrich medical is dedicated to advancing the health, mobility and well-being of patients by providing surgeons with the technology to deliver successful long-term clinical outcomes. *Ulrich medical* is committed to providing total solutions that include implants and instrumentation systems as well as special and general instruments that will optimize surgical procedures. The creation of *Ulrich medical USA* marks the beginning of a long list of introductions of innovative systems to U.S. spine surgery.

Ulrich medical USA has relocated their U.S. headquarters to: 754 Spirit 40 Park Drive Chesterfield, MO 63005

About *obelisc*

obelisc is a vertebral body replacement used for the surgical reconstruction of bone mass defects in the anterior thoracic and lumbar spine. Indications include vertebral body destruction caused by tumors or fractures.

obelisc permits free choice of surgical access from all surgical approaches. The defect is bridged by distracting the implant in situ and precisely adjusting the implant to the required height. This is accomplished by merely turning the rotating knob at the end of the holder, thereby eliminating the need for movement of the instrument.

With the *obelisc*, the spine is realigned, corrected and stabilized by means of a single instrument. If required, the implant can be augmented with osseous material.