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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**510(k) CLEARANCE ENABLES ASCENT TO REPROCESS EP CATHETERS FROM ALL MAJOR ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS**

*Hospitals can now reap financial and environmental benefits by reprocessing all IBI diagnostic EP catheters*

**Phoenix, Ariz. – Oct. 22, 2008** – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a leader in the medical device industry delivering efficiency and sustainability in healthcare, announced today that it has received a 510(k) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reprocess the full line of IBI diagnostic electrophysiology (EP) catheters and cables originally manufactured by Irvine Biomedical Inc., a St. Jude Company. These include the Inquiry™ Fixed and Steerable, AFocus™, AFocus II™ and Optima™ product families that offer one of the largest selection and variety of curve designs for varying anatomies. With this new clearance added to its previously cleared 510 (k)s, Ascent is the only device manufacturer that can reprocess diagnostic EP catheters from all major original manufacturers.

Ascent focuses on reprocessing high-cost, high-volume devices such as diagnostic EP catheters to help its hospital partners allocate resources to optimize patient care and to help protect the environment through reprocessing as well as recycling and material reclamation. Reprocessing IBI diagnostic EP catheters saves EP cath labs approximately 55 percent over the cost of an original device. A high-volume EP lab using these catheters can expect to save about \$175,000 annually.

“EP labs have a long history of safely utilizing reprocessed EP catheters and Ascent is committed to continuing to provide the industry’s most comprehensive reprocessing program for diagnostic EP catheters,” explained Ascent COO Rick Ferreira. “These expensive devices are essential to ensure that patients with irregular heart rhythms are properly diagnosed and prudent supply chain cost management is vital to ensure that these patients receive high-quality, timely care.”

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### **About Ascent Healthcare Solutions**

By continuously pioneering sustainability initiatives in healthcare, Ascent Healthcare Solutions has become a leader in the medical device industry. Ascent’s programs target inefficient practices to reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Today, Ascent’s medical device sustainability programs deliver reprocessed and/or re-manufactured medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Ascent has been recognized as a “Champion for Change” by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (now Practice Greenhealth) in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits its reprocessing programs provide to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. Ascent’s 1,700 hospital partners include most of the *U.S. News and World Report* “Honor Roll” hospitals. The company has agreements with all leading national group purchasing organizations as well as numerous nationally recognized hospital integrated delivery networks. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit [www.ascenths.com](http://www.ascenths.com).

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