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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**ASCENT HEALTHCARE'S PHOENIX FACILITY RECEIVES
ISO 13485:2003 RECERTIFICATION**

Global standard is designed specifically for medical-device manufacturers

Phoenix, Ariz. – July 24, 2007 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, the leading independent third-party reprocessor of single-use medical devices, announced today that its Phoenix reprocessing center has been officially recertified as an ISO 13485:2003 facility. This designation is an internationally recognized standard developed to ensure that companies provide medical devices that consistently meet customer and regulatory requirements.

In 2004, Ascent was the first medical device preprocessor to achieve ISO 13485:2003 "Medical devices—Quality management systems—Requirements for regulatory purposes" certification, and has since passed two mandatory "surveillance audits." Recertification is a more extensive required process that occurs every three years.

"This achievement shows that Ascent is investing in people, training and technology to enable us to continuously promote quality in everything we do," said John Grotting, chief executive officer. "We develop and apply scientifically based state-of-the-art practices specifically designed for cleaning, testing and sterilizing reprocessed medical devices and related services.

During the rigorous five-day inspection, auditors conducted multiple employee interviews and looked at numerous measurable criteria, including customer satisfaction and communication.

They also reviewed Ascent’s historical compliance with statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements. Among other things, the company had to produce:

- Documented procedures required by the international ISO accreditation organization,
- Proof of procedures to ensure effective planning, operation and control of processes,
- Written statements of a quality policy and quality objectives, and
- A quality manual.

According to Grotting, “The facility and our employees essentially underwent a top-to-bottom review of all our operations. Everything is considered and weighed — from employee training and education to the condition of our infrastructure to our safety measures and response to customer inquiries. Recertification shows we live up to our own high standards, which positively affect our customers and the public at large.”

About Ascent Healthcare Solutions

Since its inception, Ascent Healthcare Solutions, the leading independent third-party reprocessor of single-use medical devices (SUDs), has reprocessed more than 50 million SUDs, saving its customers in excess of \$500 million in supply expenses and eliminating over 10,000 tons from local landfills. 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. The company has also been recognized as a “Champion for Change” by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits reprocessing by Ascent provides to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit www.ascenths.com.

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