

LABORATORY DATA SYSTEMS AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNIDYNE CORPORATION ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT TO INTEGRATE POC TESTING DEVICES WITH AEGISPOC™

Tampa, FL – April 15th, 2006 -- Laboratory Data Systems, Inc. (LDS; Tampa, FL) and International Technidyne Corporation (ITC), a subsidiary of Thoratec Corporation (NASDAQ: THOR) announced today an agreement to integrate the IRMA TRUpoint® blood analysis system, HEMOCHRON® Response, HEMOCHRON Jr. Signature+® and Signature Elite™ coagulation instruments into the AegisPOC™ Point-of-Care and Critical Care Connectivity and Information Management System from LDS.

AegisPOC is a vendor-neutral connectivity and information management system that manages the data from POC and critical care testing devices throughout the hospital facility or the entire health enterprise. AegisPOC offers a consistent workflow and user interface for POCs, RTs, nurses and other users regardless of the instrument type(s) connected. The system is web-based and allows users to access the system from anywhere. It can also be fully integrated with any LIS, HIS, EMR or other host systems for the management of patient admission, discharge, and transfer data (ADT), test orders and patient test results. This provides users with a true and simple single point of control for all devices, users and test information.

"LDS is committed to providing vendor-neutral connectivity and information management to the POC and critical care testing communities. The integration of the instruments from ITC to our AegisPOC system will be a major benefit to the open POC connectivity movement," says Sean Field, president and CEO of Laboratory Data Systems. "ITC is clearly a leader in point-of-care instrumentation with innovative products that bring real benefits in point-of-care device connectivity. It is a very important milestone for us to have ITC instruments integrated with our AegisPOC™ product as the demand for POC testing continues to grow. We are very excited about our excellent product and service partnership with ITC for the mutual benefit of our respective companies and our mutual customers." Field continued.

The IRMA TRUpoint, HEMOCHRON™ Response, HEMOCHRON™ Jr. Signature+, and HEMOCHRON™ Signature Elite coagulation instruments are designed to perform sophisticated and rapid whole blood coagulation and blood gas testing at the point of care. The IRMA TRUpoint is a portable analyzer that provides rapid measurement of pH, blood gases, hematocrit, electrolytes, creatinine and other chemistries at the patient's bedside. The HEMOCHRON product line offers the industry's most extensive point-of-care test menu for coagulation monitoring with assays for ACT+, ACT-LR, PT, Citrated PT, APTT and Citrated APTT. All devices provide rapid and reliable test results to the clinician and allow for the management of operator and patient IDs on the device.

"Our customers desire a connectivity solution. The ability to interface both the IRMA TRUpoint and the HEMOCHRON Response and Signature Elite systems with the AegisPOC system provides fast, efficient, convenient reporting and transmission of critical care patient testing data," said ITC president Lawrence Cohen. "IRMA TRUpoint and HEMOCHRON Signature Elite users in institutions using AegisPOC Systems will be able to integrate and manage blood gas, electrolyte and coagulation monitoring with other point-of-care tests through a comprehensive, web-based point-of-care connectivity and information management solution.

About Laboratory Data Systems

LDS is a Florida corporation with headquarters in Tampa. The company develops, manufactures and markets connectivity and information management solutions for the hospital arena with a strong focus in critical care and point-of-care instrument connectivity, lab based POC management, respiratory care/critical care management, and LIS and HIS interfacing. The AegisPOC system is an innovative product that supports the functional requirements of both respiratory care departments and the point-of-care manager in the lab. LDS offers expertise in instrument connectivity and supports connectivity of various types of point-of-care and critical care instruments for other vendor's information management products.

About ITC

ITC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thoratec and develops, manufactures and markets medical devices used in three distinct segments of the medical field. The HEMOCHRON product line provides point-of-care coagulation monitoring in operating rooms and cardiac catheterization labs. IRMA TRUpoint Blood Analysis System provides blood gas, electrolyte and chemistry testing in the operating room or at the patient's bedside.

The HEMOCHRON and ProTime® microcoagulation system product lines monitor the effect of oral anticoagulation with a simple-to-use instrument for point-of-care, professional and patient self-testing use. The Hgb Professional Hemoglobin Test System® is a hand-held, battery-powered meter for measuring total hemoglobin. ITC is also the technology leader in precision, automated skin-incision technology and manufactures the Tenderlett®, Tenderfoot® and Surgicutt® products for finger-stick, infant heel incision and bleeding-time measurements.

The HEMOCHRON Signature Elite point-of-care, microcoagulation monitoring system is an enhanced version of the widely used HEMOCHRON Signature+ with new features that include internal electronic quality control and barcode scanning of patient and operator information.

Additional information regarding LDS and their products and services can be found at www.labdatasys.com

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