

PRESS RELEASE



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Ascension to Introduce 3D Guidance™ Tracker in Biopsy Application at American Urological Association Conference 2007

BURLINGTON, VERMONT; May 10, 2007: **Ascension Technology** will demonstrate the use of its **3D Guidance** tracking device in a percutaneous prostate biopsy application at the American Urological Association (AUA) 2007 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, May 19-24. Ascension's 3D Guidance tracks the position and orientation of one or more tiny sensors, enabling real-time guidance of medical instruments for minimally invasive, image-guided procedures.

For demonstration purposes at the AUA Meeting, a microminiaturized sensor will be wrapped around the distal tip of a biopsy needle and guided in real-time when inserted into a prostate phantom.



1.15 mm 5DOF sensor integrated onto a 0.9 mm biopsy needle.

3D Guidance sensors have been microminiaturized (diameters range from 0.3 mm to 1.8 mm) to enable unobtrusive attachment to the distal tip of a biopsy needle (or other interventional tools—catheters, scopes, probes). Tip sensing overcomes the possibility of errors in calculated position and trajectory due to bending of the

tool when inserted into the body. Coupled with a tracked ultrasound transducer or a pre-acquired image, the needle can be registered to an internal target. 3D Guidance's "freehand" tracking of the needle's trajectory enables an overlay on the anatomical image to show how to position the needle in three-dimensional space and predict a precise path of a needle to a lesion. After the needle is inserted, the physician receives real-time feedback that shows the exact position of the needle at all times -- even if its shaft is bowed. Graphical feedback enables the physician to perform a three-dimensional verification of the needle tip position.

Jack Scully, Ascension's VP for New Business Development, says: "3D guidance of a percutaneous biopsy intervention enables clinicians to hit an internal target with high accuracy and reliability. Ascension's breakthrough development of microminaturized magnetic sensors and a flat "metal-immune" transmitter now enables routine deployment of such a system while overcoming errors caused by instrument deflection."

3D Guidance will be shown in **Booth #3126 at AUA 2007, May 19-22, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California.** An Ascension representative, Trish Scott, will be on hand to provide information about Ascension's tracking products and their diverse medical applications.

Ascension Technology Corporation, based in Burlington, Vermont, USA, is a world leader in magnetic motion tracking solutions for medical applications. More information about Ascension trackers is available at www.ascension-tech.com or from Trish Scott at 802-893-6657, ext 34. For more information about the AUA Annual Meeting, go to www.aua2007.org.

Biomedical references and medical procedures described in this press release are examples of what can be accomplished with tracking and imaging technology once end users and/or systems integrators have complied with all pertinent FDA/CE/IRB directions.

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