



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Miniaturized Sensors Enable Biopsy Needle Navigation

## Ultrasonix Chooses Ascension Sensors for Ultrasound-Assisted Needle Guidance

**BURLINGTON, VERMONT, USA; NOVEMBER 29, 2009** - Ascension announces its 3D Guidance sensors for real-time needle tracking have been chosen by Ultrasonix Medical Corporation (<http://www.ultrasonix.com>) for its soon-to-be released ultrasound system, SonixGPS™.

The companies will show live demonstrations of the system in their exhibition booths at RSNA 2009 (<http://www.rsna2009.org>) in Chicago, IL, November 29 – December 3, 2009.



**Ascension driveBAY transmitter on articulated arm of Ultrasonix SonixGPS ultrasound cart for freehand biopsy guidance. A low profile driveBAY electronics unit is mounted beneath monitors.**

SonixGPS is a freehand biopsy guidance system for real-time, percutaneous biopsying of lesions without radiation or open surgery. It includes an Ascension 0.9 mm sensor in the needle tip and a 1.8 mm sensor for scanhead localization. The sensors are interfaced with image plane and visualization software for mapping probe and needle positions onto graphic overlays for precise targeting. The technology overcomes the estimation and inconsistencies of ultrasound-assisted biopsy. Clinical benefits include improved accuracy in locating deep-seated lesions, as well as faster procedures with reduced patient trauma.

"Ultrasonix is extremely excited to introduce its new SonixGPS technology," states its Research/OEM Manager, Kris Dickie.

"This revolutionary technology will make physician's procedures simpler and more effective while dramatically

improving patient care. Our collaboration with Ascension has made the development of SonixGPS very efficient, and the relationship has been highly communicative."

"Ascension is committed to developing enabling sensor technology for the next great advancement in medicine: image-guided procedures," says Ascension VP Jack Scully. "We are pleased to support Ultrasonix's vision of high quality, affordable ultrasound platforms for freehand biopsy and image fusion in numerous specialties."

**Shown to the right an Ultrasonix ultrasound probe are components of CIVCO's eTRAX™ needle guidance system for dynamic and accurate tracking of a needle tip. The assembly includes: (1) a reusable Ascension 0.9 mm sensor for embedding in the needle tip along with its cable and handle and (2) a sterile, disposable needle in a trocar sheath, as shown at top.**

**System and components are pending  
FDA 510(k) certification.**



### **About Ascension**

Ascension Technology makes magnetic sensors, sometimes referred to as a "patient's GPS system," for image-guided procedures. More information about Ascension sensors and their use in biopsy procedures can be seen in a streaming video located on our website called: [Biopsy Needle Guidance](#).

### **About Ultrasonix**

Ultrasonix is a leading developer and manufacturer of highly accessible diagnostic ultrasound imaging systems. The company's unique OpenSONIX ultrasound technology provides superior image quality, ease of use, and clinical flexibility for adapting to the needs of multiple specialties.

### **RSNA booth locations at McCormack Place Convention Center:**

**Ascension:** Booth #4703, South Building - Hall A

**Ultrasonix:** Booth #8735, North Building - Hall B