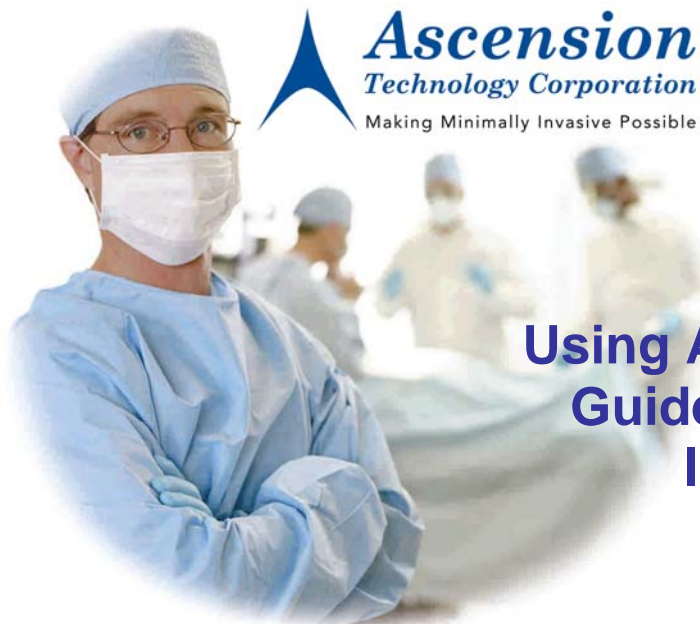


## PRESS RELEASE



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# GE Healthcare Using Ascension Sensors to Guide Biopsy Needles to Internal Targets

**BURLINGTON, VERMONT; March 25, 2010.** GE Healthcare has launched biopsy-needle guidance for its LOGIQ® E9 ultrasound system. Tip tracking is enabled by Ascension's new 0.9 mm wide magnetic sensor.

GE introduced the new feature in the United States at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Interventional Radiology on March 10, 2010. Click here:

[http://www.gehealthcare.com/usen/ultrasound/genimg/products/logiq\\_e9/docs/NeedleTrackingSheet\\_print.pdf](http://www.gehealthcare.com/usen/ultrasound/genimg/products/logiq_e9/docs/NeedleTrackingSheet_print.pdf) to read GE's published description of this new "Volume Navigation" feature.

Ascension developed the world's smallest six degrees-of-freedom sensor for medical procedures requiring precise navigation of medical instruments to targets within a patient's body. It now provides the sensors to GE and other ultrasound companies for volumetric measurement, fusion of pre-acquired and real-time imagery, biopsy/aspiration /injection needle guidance, and ablation probe localization.



**Ascension's DC magnetic sensors track GE's LOGIQ E9's probe and a CIVCO eTRAX needle tool-set for real-time guidance of a biopsy needle to an anatomical target, as shown in this gallbladder procedure. (Image courtesy CIVCO Medical Solutions.)**

The GE imaging and targeting breakthrough uses magnetic sensors for instantly finding the optimal angle and entry point for percutaneous aiming of needles to internal patient targets. The needle's tip is referenced to a second sensor(s) attached to the ultrasound probe. In this way, the path to a target can be determined and visualized even before the skin is penetrated. During the procedure, the system graphically displays the needle's position and trajectory as an overlay on the image of the scan plane.

**For more information about GE HEALTHCARE:**

GE Healthcare's broad range of products and services enable healthcare providers to better diagnose and treat cancer, heart disease, neurological diseases and other conditions earlier. GE Healthcare is a \$17 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE). Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 46,000 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit [www.gehealthcare.com](http://www.gehealthcare.com).

**For more information about ASCENSION TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION:**

Based in Burlington, Vermont, USA, Ascension is a world leader in magnetic and optical products for real-time tracking, navigation and guidance in surgical navigation and 3D localization procedures. Its new generation of 3D Guidance tracking devices is a key enabling technology for many minimally invasive procedures. For more information: [www.ascension-tech.com](http://www.ascension-tech.com).

*Biomedical references and procedures described herein 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 directives.*

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