



PRESS RELEASE

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Second Generation of Popular 3D Guidance[®] Trackers Released

Latest driveBAY and trakSTAR Models Expand 3D Tracking Options for More Applications



BURLINGTON, VERMONT; November 18, 2010: **Ascension Technology Corporation** will release two new models of its industry-leading tracker line -- 3D Guidance trakSTAR 2 and driveBAY 2 -- at the Radiological Society of North America (<http://rsna2010.rsna.org/>) Annual Conference in Chicago, at McCormick Place, November 28 - December 2, 2010.

For unobtrusiveness and ease of use, six degrees-of-freedom sensors now range in size from 8 mm to just 0.5 mm in diameter. Low cost, five degrees-of-freedom, miniaturized sensors are also being released. The latter are designed for single-use disposability. (Degrees-of-freedom is a term to identify the number of position and orientation parameters in a measurement.) Six degrees-of-freedom sensors track the X, Y, Z position and Azimuth, Elevation, and Roll orientation of the sensor as it moves in free space. Five degrees-of-freedom sensors track position as well as Azimuth and Elevation only.

Sensors are increasingly used in image-guided therapy to navigate and guide medical instruments to targets within a patient's body. Leading ultrasound companies, including GE Healthcare, Hitachi, Esaote, and Ultrasonix now routinely sell sensor modules for volumetric measurement, image fusion, and biopsy needle tip navigation. The trackers are also popularly used in biomechanics, virtual reality and other real-time visualization applications.

In addition to Ascension's mid-range and short-range transmitters, driveBAY 2 now supports a flat transmitter to eliminate metal errors emanating from procedural tables. It also supports MAGnet, a new DC magnetic field generator with an optional mounting arm for easy attachment to beds, carts, and tables in medical environments. trakSTAR 2 supports these field generators as well as a wide range transmitter for simultaneous tracking of up to twenty 8 mm sensors in a space as large as a medium-sized room.

A sleek desktop electronics unit with an onboard power supply and a high-speed USB interface to a host computer powers trakSTAR 2. The compact driveBAY 2 electronics unit fits into the drive bay of a PC chassis and uses its onboard power.

"trakSTAR 2 and driveBAY 2 give our customers two new options for fast tracking of miniaturized sensors," says Vice President Jack Scully. "They also answer customer requests for disposable sensors and wider applications areas."

Both trackers employ Ascension's proprietary pulsed-DC tracking technology to control the distorting effects of non-magnetic metals in the immediate working area. Measurements are unaffected by common nearby non-magnetic metals, such as stainless steel (300 series), titanium, and other low conductivity metals.

Chuck Stevens, 3D Guidance program manager, states, "These two new trackers incorporate the latest advances in digital signal processing and Kalman Filtering to provide our customers with extremely quick, accurate and jitter-free tracking performance. With our new MAGnet transmitter, we can now update measurements as fast as 504 times a second."

Environmentally friendly, the trackers are RoHS and WEEE compliant while meeting all pertinent electrical and safety standards.

Ascension Technology Corp., based in Burlington, Vermont, USA, is a professional 3D tracking company that specializes in magnetic and optical tracking solutions for its worldwide customer base. More information and YouTube videos are available at www.ascension-tech.com.

3D tracking and imaging technology are authorized for medical only in compliance with all pertinent FDA/CE/IRB directives.

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