



PRESS RELEASE

PO Box 527
Burlington, VT USA 05402
www.ascension-tech.com
802.893.6657

Media Contact
Anna W. Januszczyk
ajanuszczyk@ascension-tech.com
802.893.6657 x 10



Ascension Motion Tracker Highlighted at International 3D Surgery Symposium

Technology Proves Useful for Surgical Training, Quality Measurement

Burlington, VT (March 14, 2011) – Ascension Technology Corporation’s trakSTAR motion tracker was recently featured at an international 3D Laparoscopic Surgery Symposium presented by the Minimal Access Therapy Training Unit (MATTU) of the University of Surrey, England.

The technology was used to measure novice surgeons’ performance on stereo (3D) imaging systems in a simulated environment, providing insight into their exact hand movements.

“We concluded that Ascension Technology would be perfect for MATTU’s application because it is extremely easy to use and offers great quality capture time and again,” said Jeff Ferguson, motion capture and tracking expert at Inition, the 3D technology specialists who provided consultancy and equipment for the scope of the project. “Inition backs Ascensions’ 3D Guidance systems without hesitation where precise medical tracking is required.”

The trakSTAR technology has important applications in research, as scientists investigate the benefits of 3D surgical imaging systems over 2D systems, and the impact of these systems on surgical skills.

Ralph Smith, a PhD student at MATTU who helped develop and run the symposium with director Iain Jourdan, said the trakSTAR, in combination with a customized software called sequitor (Practical Automation Management Ltd.) proved an effective, reliable motion tracking solution for research purposes.

“It provides additional markers of quality performance for novices and expert surgeons,” Smith said. “The motion tracking delivers objective feedback and can contribute to the learning process.”

In addition, motion tracking may be useful in helping to assess competency of existing surgeons, or recruit future surgeons-in-training in the future, Smith said.

Ascension's trakSTAR system uses miniaturized magnetic sensors to precisely track surgeons' movements during image-guided therapy. It allows surgeons to navigate instruments in 3D without the use of radiation. The technology can track up to 16 miniaturized six degrees-of-freedom sensors simultaneously.

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About Ascension

Ascension Technology Corporation is a professional 3D tracking company specializing in navigation and guidance devices for medical instruments. Its optical and magnetic tracking devices are key enabling technology for image-guided procedures. Ascension's magnetic sensors are currently used for needle tip navigation, volumetric measurement, and image fusion by leading medical device companies including GE Healthcare, Hitachi, Esaote, Ultrasonix, CIVCO, and many others. For more information, visit <http://www.ascension-tech.com>