



Ascension
Technology Corporation
Making Minimally Invasive Possible

PRESS RELEASE

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Ascension and Ultrasonix Show the Future of Biopsy Needle Guidance



BURLINGTON, VT; VANCOUVER, BC (March 22, 2011) - **Ascension Technology Corp and Ultrasonix Medical Corp** will demonstrate the world's smallest magnetic sensors for small needle biopsies running on an Ultrasonix SonixGPS ultrasound platform at SIR 2011 – the annual conference of the Society of Interventional Radiologists (www.sirmeeting.org), Chicago, IL, March 26-30, 2011; **Booth #807**.

Ultrasonix's SonixGPS platform supports tracking of biopsy needles as small as 21 gauge for needle tip guidance and trajectory planning in anesthesiology, critical care, and IVF procedures.



SonixGPS is a new needle guidance technology available with Ultrasonix's SonixTouch ultrasound system. It lets clinicians accurately predict the needle's trajectory by displaying both the tissue and the needle.

At SIR, Ultrasonix will show its SonixGPS breakthrough in freehand needle guidance in the Ascension booth and at the Ultrasonix booth 509. A new option on the SonixTouch ultrasound system, SonixGPS lets clinicians accurately predict the needle's trajectory by displaying both the tissue and the needle. Using a sensor in the ultrasound probe and another one in the needle, it keeps track of the needle's distal tip and enables clinicians to access an internal target from any depth or angle, in-plane or out-of- plane.

"Ascension's sensor technology is an integral part of our revolutionary SonixGPS product. We are excited to demonstrate the solution together at the SIR conference," said Laurent Pelissier, CEO of Ultrasonix. "Although ultrasound is already used during interventional procedures, the SonixGPS tracking feature is a true step forward because it will enable clinicians to better monitor the needle's trajectory in real-time during the whole procedure, especially for deep or more complex procedures."

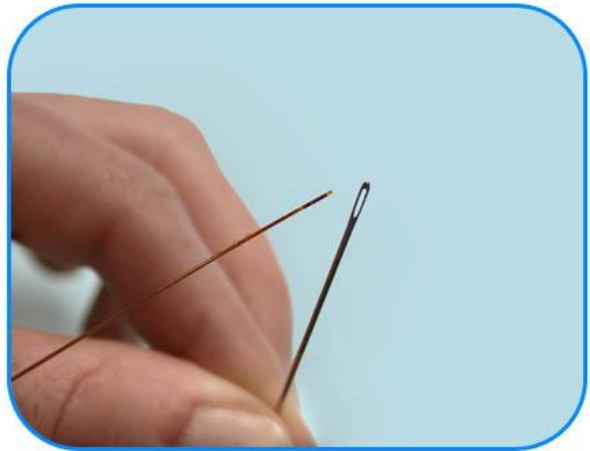
SonixGPS promises to reduce procedure time and improve patient care by reducing the pain caused by multiple needle entries. Ultrasonix offers the new technology as an optional feature on its SonixTouch Anesthesia and SonixTouch Breast ultrasound systems.

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>.

About Ultrasonix

Ultrasonix develops and manufactures diagnostic ultrasound imaging systems with customizable touch screens that simplify workflows for experienced and novice users. The company's systems are built on an open software platform that enables remote service and easy updates to keep current with advancements in imaging technology. Founded in 2000, Ultrasonix is a privately-held company headquartered in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada with affiliate dealers in 65 countries. For more information, visit <http://www.ultrasonix.com/>



Ascension invented the world's smallest magnetic sensor to accurately track the distal tip of small needles for emerging ultrasound procedures. Its award-winning 0.55 mm sensor easily passes through the eye of a needle. It is designed to guide 20-21 gauge needles for fine needle, catheter, and guidewire navigation in conjunction with imaging modalities, toolsets, and visualization software.

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