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Instron® and Ranier Announce Deal for Spinal Device Test Systems

Advanced Test Systems to Be Deployed for Testing Spine Implant Devices

NORWOOD, MA and CAMBRIDGE, UK 14 December 2005-- Instron Corporation, a leading provider of testing equipment designed to evaluate mechanical properties of materials and components, and Ranier Technology today announced that they have completed installation of advanced test systems at Ranier's spinal device development center in Cambridge, UK. The order included multiple Instron 8874 Axial-Torsional Test Systems with advanced fatigue software, which will be deployed by Ranier to execute the testing protocol for Ranier's *CADisc* artificial spinal disc and to progress device testing to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registration requirements.

Instron's BioPuls™ range of solutions is advancing the understanding of physical properties and performance of many medical products, devices and materials for a wide variety of customers like Ranier.

"We are pleased to partner with Ranier to provide them with advanced biomechanical test solutions to help accelerate the development and commercialization of their complex compliant elastomeric device," said Tom Davies, Sales Manager for Instron in the UK.

"The advanced control, data handling features and expandable architecture of the Instron 8874's, combined with proven load frames, will allow us to optimize our biomechanical testing" said Dr. Scott Johnson, Project Leader at Ranier. "Together, with our existing Instron test equipment and the strong technical support we've enjoyed from Instron's Biomedical Applications Team in the UK, this new equipment will ensure that our test facilities will be more than adequate to meet our current and future test requirements."

About Instron

Instron® is a leading provider of testing equipment for the material and structural testing markets. A global company providing single-source convenience, Instron's products are used to test the mechanical properties and performances of various materials, components and structures in a wide array of environments.

Instron systems evaluate materials ranging from the most fragile filament to advanced alloys, providing customers with a comprehensive resource for all their research, quality and service-life testing requirements. Additionally, Instron offers a broad range of service capabilities, including assistance with laboratory management, calibration expertise and customer training. Additional information on Instron can be found at www.instron.com.

About Ranier Technology Limited

Ranier Technology Limited, located in Cambridge, UK, is a medical device development company engaged in the research and development of polymer based medical devices, utilizing proprietary Precision Polyurethane Manufacture (PPM) materials technology, with a primary focus on motion preserving spinal implants. Ranier recently announced the closing of a \$7.3 million Series 'B' institutional funding round, the proceeds of which are being used to fund the ongoing development and clinical evaluation of the *CADisc* compliant artificial lumbar disc for total disc replacement. Additional information on Ranier can be found at www.ranier.co.uk.