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HOSPITALS PARTNER WITH ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS TO SAVE MORE THAN \$82 MILLION IN FIRST HALF OF 2009

Ascent's Sustainability Programs Deliver Immediate Results, Driving Critical Supply Chain Savings, and Supporting Environmental Stewardship and Patient Care Initiatives

Phoenix, Ariz. – Sept. 1, 2009 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, today announced that its hospital partners saved an astounding \$82 Million in unnecessary supply chain costs in the first six months of 2009 with Ascent's reprocessing and remanufacturing programs. This represents a 25% increase in savings over the first six months of 2008 as hospitals discover reprocessing and remanufacturing as a key recession-proof strategy that simultaneously saves money and reduces waste. The program successfully diverted over 2.5 Million pounds (1,286 tons) of waste from local landfills in the first half of 2009.

"Ascent's program enables hospitals to generate supply cost savings and focus on environmental stewardship" stated Amy Anthony, senior vice president of supply chain services at VHA Inc. "VHA members are leading the charge to reduce costs and harm to the environment with \$38 million in savings and one million pounds of waste diversion in 2008 alone. With the recent expansion of our agreement with Ascent, we look forward to seeing even better results in 2009 and beyond."

Ascent is the only company that offers this magnitude of value – from both the cost savings and environmental perspectives. Its award-winning products, professional services, sustainability programs and commitment to healthcare transparency have earned the trust and confidence of hospital management, physicians, and clinicians nationwide. Reprocessing and remanufacturing with Ascent Healthcare Solutions offers hospitals the single most impactful solution to reduce medical device expense, protect the environment and improve patient care:

- **Drive Supply Chain Savings** – Ascent’s programs are designed to ensure immediate results and long-term success. Its intuitive product packaging and waste storage containers, as well as proprietary educational programs and a true partnership approach effect a seamless transition in clinical workflow to jump-start results and increase compliance to optimize savings opportunities.
- **Accelerate Environmental Stewardship** – Hospitals can quickly and efficiently become more responsible stewards of the environment and protect the communities they serve by diverting waste from local landfills with Ascent’s reprocessing and remanufacturing program. Ascent’s program goes beyond the basic environmental benefits of reprocessing; it is the only program that also incorporates an environmentally conscious approach to handling and disposing of devices *that cannot be reprocessed or remanufactured*, reducing the devices to their component parts and properly recycling the materials.
- **Enhance Patient Care** – With dramatic savings opportunities, hospitals are able to reinvest the savings from Ascent’s programs in patient care initiatives. From continuing education for nurses and educational tools for physicians and interns, to upgrading equipment and increasing or maintaining bedside staffing – Ascent’s programs are having a direct and vital impact on improving the quality of patient care.

“It is exciting and rewarding to hear about the innovative ways our hospital partners are redirecting the savings from reprocessing and remanufacturing to maintain or enhance patient care,” stated John Grotting, CEO of Ascent Healthcare Solutions. “Our programs are on the front lines of hospital sustainability, empowering hospitals with effective resource utilization, robust savings opportunities, and an immediate and expansive environmental stewardship program.”

ABOUT ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

By continuously pioneering sustainability initiatives in healthcare, Ascent Healthcare Solutions has become a leader in the medical device industry. Ascent's programs target inefficient practices to reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Today, Ascent's medical device sustainability programs deliver remanufactured and/or reprocessed medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Ascent has been recognized as a "Champion for Change" by Practice Greenhealth in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits its remanufacturing and reprocessing programs provide to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. Ascent's more than 1,800 hospital partners include most of the *U.S. News & World Report* "Honor Roll" hospitals. The company has agreements with all leading national group purchasing organizations as well as numerous nationally recognized hospital integrated delivery networks. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit www.ascenths.com.

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