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SURGICAL PROCEDURES TO BE SHOWN VIA LIVE VIDEO CONFERENCE USING POLYCOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTION

Worldwide experts in Ear Nose & Throat (Otolaryngology) surgery at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham are to be linked via video conference to the operating theatres at Clinique Causse, Colombiers, France

SLOUGH, Berkshire, 3 July 2003: Today, delegates at the British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology (BACO), being held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre, will witness via live video link ear surgery taking place in the Clinique Causse in Colombiers, France. The link is made possible through the use of ViewStation® FX video conferencing systems from Polycom, the world's leader in video and voice conferencing, conference bridges and integrated web collaboration solutions.

While video conferencing to date has been deployed within a business environment to facilitate meetings and the sharing of information regardless of the location of the participants, it is now being increasingly used within the medical sector as a tool to aid communication and share expertise.

Two operations will be performed and transmitted live bringing together the surgeons at the Clinique Causse in France and the delegates at the Convention Centre in Birmingham via the Polycom ViewStation FX's installed in each location. The ViewStation FX meets the exacting requirements of the use of video conferencing within a medical environment – excellent video quality, optimum image definition, the ability to share data as well as high quality audio capability.

Organised by Dr Robert Vincent of the Clinique Causse together with UK colleagues Mr David Morgan and Mr John Oates the two video conferences will take place in partnership with Audika, the Regional Department of France Telecom EGT and Intracom Grenoble.

In addition to the link with the Clinique Causse, the ViewStation FX is being used to provide live links from Birmingham's Heartlands Hospital, where Professor Jens Tomsen from Denmark is to perform an anatomical dissection which will also be shown live to Conference delegates.

The ViewStation FX's have been installed at the Heartlands Hospital and at the Convention Centre by Polycom's channel partner Direct Visual to link with surgical cameras provided by DP Medical Systems.

Tony Heyworth, Marketing Director EMEA, Polycom comments, "Polycom is pleased to be playing a role in bringing the expertise of surgeons from France and Denmark to the delegates at the BACO. The live links demonstrate how video conferencing has become a powerful communications tool within the medical sector enabling the sharing of expert knowledge and ultimately improved patient care."

BACO is the UK's largest meeting for ENT surgeons and associated professionals. Held every four years, the conference attracts delegates from the UK and all over the world in addition to exhibitors from major instrument manufacturers and equipment suppliers.

Polycom ViewStation

Polycom's ViewStation® delivers the quality and performance of high-end video conferencing systems at an affordable price. Available in a broad product range, including ViewStation FX, ViewStation EX, VS4000™, ViewStation MP, ViewStation 512, ViewStation 128, ViewStation SP128 and SP384 and ViewStation H.323, the product sets the standard for high-performance, affordable and easy-to-use interactive video communications.



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About Polycom

Polycom, Inc. is the world's technology leader of high-quality, easy-to-use video, voice, data and web conferencing and collaboration solutions. The Polycom Office™ is our continued commitment to make distance communications as natural and interactive as being there by providing best-in-class conferencing solutions that are interoperable, integrated and intuitive to the user. The Polycom Office is based on industry standards and supported by an open architecture that promotes interoperability in multi-vendor environments and complements leading network infrastructure platforms. The Polycom EMEA (formerly Polyspan) HQ is in Slough, Berkshire in the UK. Polycom EMEA operates in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For additional information, call 00 800 00 33 44 55 or visit the Polycom website at www.polycom.com.

About Direct Visual

Direct Visual is a leading independent supplier of videoconferencing and audio visual solutions. The company offers a dynamic approach, experience, knowledge and support from a qualified and skilled team. This has enabled it to become a leading player in the videoconferencing market and secure an impressive portfolio of customers in the health sector including hospitals, NHS Trusts and Cancer Networks.

The company, which has witnessed impressive growth since its foundation, is currently undergoing a major expansion plan to meet continued demand.

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