



Intuitive demonstrates telesurgery capabilities

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SUNNYVALE, Calif., July 16, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Intuitive (NASDAQ:ISRG), a global technology leader in minimally invasive care and the pioneer of robotic-assisted surgery, has today demonstrated its telesurgery capabilities by remotely connecting two surgeons to perform a transatlantic demonstration at the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS) conference in Strasbourg, France.

This landmark event involved Doug Stoddard, MD, located in Peachtree Corners, GA, and Andrea Pakula, MD, located remotely in Strasbourg, France. Together, using a dual console da Vinci 5 system, they performed a telesurgery procedure on an advanced tissue model developed by Intuitive to replicate the behavior of live tissue.

During the demonstration, Stoddard, whose console was alongside the da Vinci 5 patient cart and tissue model, was able to pass control of surgical instruments back and forth remotely to Pakula, located at the remote surgeon console. This included Force Feedback, enabling both surgeons to feel the forces exerted on the advanced tissue model by the instruments, despite being more than 4,000 miles apart.

Speaking at the SRS conference, Intuitive Chief Executive Officer Dave Rosa said: "Telesurgery is an area Intuitive has been thoughtfully innovating in for many years. It is a capability that has the potential to improve patient access to minimally invasive care, but its success depends on careful development in several areas.

"At Intuitive we've built robotic surgical technology from the ground up and our focus has always been patient safety and delivering real value—not technology for technology's sake. For 30 years, we've created products that help healthcare providers deliver better care, improve clinician and care team experiences, and drive efficiencies in care delivery.

"Telesurgery is just one part of our telecollaboration suite, which includes telementoring, teleproctoring, and dual console surgery, that can help clinical teams to improve outcomes and reduce the total cost of care. It's exciting to see progress, but we're clear there's still a long way to go."

Telesurgery — the ability of a surgeon to perform an operation remotely from the patient via a robotic surgical system — became feasible in 2001 when surgeons performed the first transatlantic procedure, dubbed Operation Lindbergh, between the U.S. and Strasbourg, France.

"While not a new idea for Intuitive, telesurgery requires a high performing network infrastructure and a robotic system designed for remote collaboration to be successful and sustainable. Our focus is not on being first but on being rigorous in building the infrastructure to support safety, reliability, and consistent use," said Brian Miller, PhD, Intuitive's executive vice president and chief digital officer, who was an engineer supporting Operation Lindbergh.

This year marks Intuitive's 30th year of developing robotic-assisted technology with the goal of improving patient outcomes, improving patient and care team experience, increasing access to minimally invasive care, and lowering the total cost to treat. In Intuitive's first three decades, surgeons performed nearly 17 million da Vinci procedures, and nearly 90,000 surgeons have been trained to use Intuitive's systems.

The telesurgery software on the da Vinci 5 system that was shown during this demonstration was used for demonstration purposes only. The technology is still in development, is not 510(k) cleared or CE marked, and the safety and effectiveness of the product has not been established. The technology is not currently for sale and cannot be made available nor put into service in the U.S. or in the European Union.

Dr. Doug Stoddard is director of surgery and robotics at Christus Health in Texas.

Dr. Andrea Pakula is medical director of robotic surgery at Adventist Health in California.

About Intuitive

Intuitive (NASDAQ:ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is a global leader in minimally invasive care and the pioneer of robotic surgery. Our technologies include the da Vinci surgical system and the Ion endoluminal system. By uniting advanced systems, progressive learning, and value-enhancing services, we help physicians and their teams optimize care delivery to support the best outcomes possible. At Intuitive, we envision a future of care that is less invasive and profoundly better, where disease is identified early and treated quickly, so that patients can get back to what matters most.

About da Vinci Surgical Systems

There are several models of the da Vinci surgical system. The da Vinci surgical systems are designed to help surgeons perform minimally invasive surgery and offer surgeons high-definition 3D vision, a magnified view, and robotic and computer assistance. They use specialized instrumentation, including a miniaturized surgical camera and wristed instruments (i.e., scissors, scalpels, and forceps) that are designed to help with precise dissection and reconstruction deep inside the body.

For more information, please visit the company's website at www.intuitive.com.

Important Safety Information

For product intended use and/or indications for use, risks, cautions, and warnings and full prescribing information, visit <https://manuals.intuitivesurgical.com/market>. For summary of the risks associated with surgery refer to www.intuitive.com/safety.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements which relate to expectations concerning matters that are not historical facts. Statements using words such as "estimates," "projects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "intends," "may," "will," "can," "could," "should," "would," "targeted," "potential," and similar words and expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are necessarily estimates reflecting the judgment of Intuitive's management and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or impacts

on its operations, financial performance, and business position to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements related to research and development of products and services, manufacturing of products, obtaining of regulatory approvals, technical and other performance of products and services, and making products and services available to more patients and health care professionals. These forward-looking statements should be considered in light of various important factors and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, which may cause the actual results, performance, or achievements of Intuitive, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements include, among others, economic conditions in the geographic markets in which we operate, changes in governmental regulations, regulatory approval priorities, resources, and timelines, regulatory enforcement priorities, governmental investigations and civil litigation, and other factors discussed in Intuitive's Annual Reports and other filings with relevant securities regulators.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release and which are based on current expectations and are subject to risks, uncertainties, and assumptions that are difficult to predict, including those risk factors identified under the heading "Risk Factors" in Intuitive's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024, as updated by its other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Intuitive's actual results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements, and it undertakes no obligation to publicly update or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

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The logo for Intuitive Surgical, featuring the word "INTUITIVE" in a bold, sans-serif font. A small circle is positioned above the letter "I".

Source: Intuitive Surgical, Inc.