



Intuitive Announces Increase in Share Repurchase Program

March 21, 2013

SUNNYVALE, Calif., March 20, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), the industry leader in surgical robotics, today announced that its board of directors has authorized the Company to repurchase an additional \$1 billion of the Company's outstanding common stock. The \$1 billion repurchase authorization will be available after the Company's internal trading window opens on April 23, 2013. With this authorization, the total amount available for share repurchases by the Company is approximately \$1.21 billion, which includes approximately \$208 million remaining from previous authorizations.

The timing and total amount of share repurchases will depend upon market conditions and may be made from time to time in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, accelerated stock repurchase programs, issuer self-tender offers or otherwise, as determined by the Company's management. The repurchases will be made in compliance with, and at such times as permitted by, federal securities law and may be suspended or discontinued at any time. The Company expects to fund the repurchase program through cash and investments. As of December 31, 2012, the Company had approximately \$2.9 billion of cash, cash equivalents and investments.

About Intuitive Surgical's Products

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq:ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, is the global technology leader in robotic-assisted, minimally invasive surgery. Intuitive Surgical develops, manufactures and markets robotic technologies designed to improve clinical outcomes and help patients return more quickly to active and productive lives. Intuitive Surgical's mission is to extend the benefits of minimally invasive surgery to the broadest possible base of patients. Intuitive Surgical — Taking surgery beyond the limits of the human hand™.

About the *da Vinci*® Surgical System

The *da Vinci*® Surgical System is a breakthrough surgical platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. The *da Vinci*® Surgical System consists of an ergonomic surgeon console or consoles, a patient-side cart with three or four interactive robotic arms, a high-performance vision system and proprietary *EndoWrist*® instruments. Powered by state-of-the-art robotic and computer technology, the *da Vinci*® Surgical System is designed to scale, filter and seamlessly translate the surgeon's hand movements into more precise movements of the *EndoWrist*® instruments. The net result is an intuitive interface with breakthrough surgical capabilities. By providing surgeons with superior visualization, enhanced dexterity, greater precision and ergonomic comfort, the *da Vinci*® Surgical System makes it possible for more surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures involving complex dissection or reconstruction. This ultimately has the potential to raise the standard of care for complex surgeries, translating into numerous potential patient benefits, including less pain, a shorter recovery and quicker return to normal daily activities. For more information about clinical evidence related to *da Vinci*® Surgery, please visit www.intuitivesurgical.com/company/clinical-evidence/

Intuitive®, Intuitive Surgical®, *da Vinci*®, *da Vinci S*®, *da Vinci S HD* Surgical System, *da Vinci*® *Si*, *da Vinci*® *Si-e*™ Surgical System, *EndoWrist*®, *EndoWrist*® *One*™, *Single-Site*™, *DVSTAT*®, *Firefly*™ Fluorescence Imaging and *nSite*® are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements regarding the amount of stock that the Company may repurchase in the open market, the amount of cash that may be available for stock repurchases, and the timing and form of stock repurchase transactions. These forward-looking statements are necessarily estimates reflecting the best judgment of our management and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements should, therefore, be considered in light of various important factors, including the following: the impact of global and regional economic and credit market conditions on health care spending; health care reform legislation in the United States and its implications on hospital spending, reimbursement and fees which will be levied on certain medical device revenues; timing and success of product development and market acceptance of developed products; procedure counts; regulatory approvals, clearances and restrictions; guidelines and recommendations in the health care and patient communities; intellectual property positions and litigation; competition in the medical device industry and in the specific markets of surgery in which we operate; unanticipated manufacturing disruptions or the inability to meet demand for products; the results of legal proceedings to which we are or may become a party; our ability to expand into foreign markets; and other risk factors under the heading "Risk Factors" in our report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, as updated from time to time by our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Statements using words such as "estimates," "projects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "intends," "may," "will," "could," "should," "would," "targeted" and similar words and expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this press release or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

CONTACT: Investor Relations
(408) 523-2161

Intuitive Surgical, Inc.