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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 18, 2011**

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**INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**000-30713**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**77-0416458**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**1266 Kifer Road**  
**Sunnyvale, California 94086**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (408) 523-2100**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On October 18, 2011, Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (“Intuitive”) issued a press release announcing its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Current Report, including Exhibit 99.1, shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities under that Section and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing of Intuitive under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

d) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is furnished with this report on Form 8-K:

99.1 Press release issued by Intuitive Surgical, Inc., dated October 18, 2011.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.

Date: October 18, 2011

By \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ **MARSHALL L. MOHR**

*Name:*

**Marshall L. Mohr  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer**

*Title:*

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	Press Release issued by Intuitive Surgical, Inc., dated October 18, 2011.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Investor Relations 408-523-2161

**INTUITIVE SURGICAL ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER EARNINGS**

SUNNYVALE, CALIF. October 18, 2011 – Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (NASDAQ: ISRG), the industry leader in surgical robotics, today reported third quarter of 2011 revenue of \$447 million, up 30% compared with \$344 million for the third quarter of 2010. Third quarter of 2011 revenue growth was driven by continued robotic procedure adoption and higher *da Vinci* Surgical System sales.

Third quarter of 2011 instruments and accessories revenue increased 38% to \$176 million from \$128 million in the third quarter of 2010. The growth in instruments and accessories revenue was primarily driven by growth in *da Vinci* surgical procedures of approximately 30%. Third quarter of 2011 systems revenue was \$199 million, an increase of 25%, compared to \$160 million during the third quarter of 2010. The growth in third quarter 2011 systems revenue was driven by sales of 133 *da Vinci* Surgical Systems compared to 105 system sales during the same period last year. Third quarter of 2011 services revenue increased 25% to \$72 million from \$57 million during the third quarter of 2010, reflecting growth in the installed base of *da Vinci* Surgical Systems.

Third quarter of 2011 operating income increased 35% to \$179 million from \$132 million during the third quarter of 2010. Operating results for the third quarter of 2011 included \$35 million of non-cash stock-based compensation expense compared with \$30 million for the third quarter of 2010.

Third quarter of 2011 net income increased 41% to \$122 million, or \$3.05 per diluted share, from \$87 million, or \$2.14 per diluted share for the third quarter of 2010.

Intuitive ended the third quarter of 2011 with \$1,887 million in cash, cash equivalents and investments, reflecting an increase of \$65 million during the quarter, net of \$181 million used to repurchase 526,000 shares of common stock.

Commenting on the announcement, Dr. Gary Guthart, President and CEO of Intuitive Surgical, said, “We are pleased with the growth in *da Vinci* procedures and the performance of our team in the quarter.”

The Company will also announce these results at a conference call today at 1:30 pm PDT. The dial-in numbers for the call are 877-777-1967 for participants located in the United States and 612-332-0226 for participants located outside the United States. The host is Dr. Gary Guthart. To access financial information that will be discussed on the call, please visit Intuitive Surgical's website at [www.intuitivesurgical.com](http://www.intuitivesurgical.com).

#### About Intuitive'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. The Company'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.

*Intuitive*®, *Intuitive Surgical*®, *da Vinci*®, *da Vinci S*®, *da Vinci S HD Surgical System*, *da Vinci Si*, *da Vinci Si-e*™ *Surgical System*, *EndoWrist*®, *Single-Site*™, *DVSTAT*® and *InSite*® 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. 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 conditions and related credit markets and related impact 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 Intuitive Surgical operates; unanticipated manufacturing disruptions; delays in regulatory approvals of new manufacturing facilities or the inability to meet demand for products; and the results of the year-end audit and other risk factors under the heading "Risk Factors" in our report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, 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 concerning forecasts, revenue growth, procedure growth, future financial results, and statements using words such as "estimate," "project," "plan," "intend," "expect," "anticipate," "believe," "targeted" and similar 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.

**INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED QUARTERLY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
**(IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)**

	Three months ended		
	September 30, 2011	June 30, 2011	September 30, 2010
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Instruments & Accessories	\$ 175.8	\$ 171.5	\$ 127.5
Systems	199.1	186.6	159.6
Services	71.8	67.6	57.3
Total revenue	<u>446.7</u>	<u>425.7</u>	<u>344.4</u>
<b>Cost of revenue:</b>			
Products	96.2	93.5	72.8
Services	25.0	25.6	21.0
Total cost of revenue (1)	<u>121.2</u>	<u>119.1</u>	<u>93.8</u>
Gross profit	325.5	306.6	250.6
<b>Operating expenses:</b>			
Selling, general and administrative	111.2	106.5	91.6
Research and development	35.4	32.0	26.9
Total operating expenses (1)	<u>146.6</u>	<u>138.5</u>	<u>118.5</u>
Income from operations (2)	178.9	168.1	132.1
Interest and other income, net	1.9	4.1	5.0
Income before income taxes	180.8	172.2	137.1
Provision for income taxes	58.4	54.8	50.5
Net Income	<u>\$ 122.4</u>	<u>\$ 117.4</u>	<u>\$ 86.6</u>
<b>Earnings per share:</b>			
Basic	<u>\$ 3.13</u>	<u>\$ 2.99</u>	<u>\$ 2.20</u>
Diluted	<u>\$ 3.05</u>	<u>\$ 2.91</u>	<u>\$ 2.14</u>
<b>Shares used in computing earnings per share:</b>			
Basic	<u>39.1</u>	<u>39.2</u>	<u>39.4</u>
Diluted	<u>40.1</u>	<u>40.3</u>	<u>40.5</u>

- (1) Includes stock-based compensation expense of \$6.1 million, \$6.0 million and \$4.7 million in total cost of revenue and \$28.8 million, \$28.8 million and \$25.7 million in total operating expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010, respectively.
- (2) Includes amortization of purchased intellectual property of \$4.5 million, \$4.3 million and \$4.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2010, respectively.



**INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED NINE MONTHS ENDED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
**(IN MILLIONS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)**

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Instruments & Accessories	\$ 504.7	\$ 377.7
Systems	552.8	482.7
Services	203.0	163.3
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,260.5</b>	<b>1,023.7</b>
<b>Cost of revenue:</b>		
Products	274.5	213.5
Services	75.1	62.3
<b>Total cost of revenue (1)</b>	<b>349.6</b>	<b>275.8</b>
Gross profit	910.9	747.9
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Selling, general and administrative	316.8	263.0
Research and development	98.8	83.4
<b>Total operating expenses (1)</b>	<b>415.6</b>	<b>346.4</b>
Income from operations (2)	495.3	401.5
Interest and other income, net	11.3	13.6
Income before income taxes	506.6	415.1
Provision for income taxes	162.7	154.5
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 343.9</b>	<b>\$ 260.6</b>
<b>Earnings per share:</b>		
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$ 8.77</b>	<b>\$ 6.65</b>
<b>Diluted</b>	<b>\$ 8.55</b>	<b>\$ 6.45</b>
<b>Shares used in computing earnings per share:</b>		
<b>Basic</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>Diluted</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>40.4</b>

(1) Includes stock compensation expense of \$17.4 million and \$13.3 million in total cost of revenue and \$84.4 million and \$74.2 million in total operating expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(2) Includes amortization of purchased intellectual property of \$13.1 million and \$12.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

**INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
**(IN MILLIONS)**

	<u>9/30/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>
Cash, cash equivalents, and investments	\$1,887.3	\$1,608.9
Accounts receivable, net	265.1	246.8
Inventory	108.6	86.8
Property and equipment, net	196.0	159.8
Goodwill	116.9	116.9
Deferred tax assets	73.9	81.8
Other assets	98.2	89.4
Total assets	<u>\$2,746.0</u>	<u>\$2,390.4</u>
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	\$ 232.2	\$ 226.1
Deferred revenue	144.8	126.9
Total liabilities	377.0	353.0
Stockholders' equity	2,369.0	2,037.4
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$2,746.0</u>	<u>\$2,390.4</u>