Zimmer Announces Global Launch of Stemmed Tibial Component Designed Specifically for Minimally Invasive Total Knee Arthroplasty

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WARSAW, Ind., April 28, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- Zimmer Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: ZMH; SWX: ZMH), a worldwide leader in the orthopaedics industry, today announced the commercialization of the first modular stemmed tibial prosthesis that can be assembled within the patient, making it more conducive to minimally invasive procedures. The NexGen(R) Minimally Invasive Solutions(TM) (MIS(TM)) Tibial Component, which was earlier this year cleared for use in the United States, was designed specifically for use in minimally invasive procedures, although it can also be used in traditional surgical approaches for total knee arthroplasty.

"This important new product reaffirms and strengthens our leadership position within the minimally invasive knee segment," said Ray Elliott, Zimmer Chairman, President and CEO. "This product is an industry first -- total knee components specifically designed to be assembled within the patient in order to further optimize minimally invasive total knee procedures. These new tibial plates add depth and scope to our minimally invasive tibial plate offering. The new implant, in combination with the MIS friendly NexGen 4- pegged Tibial Plate, clearly demonstrates Zimmer's leadership position in minimally invasive total knee instrumentation, surgical technique development and implant design." The design of the NexGen 4-pegged Tibial Plate was based on Zimmer's Miller/Galante Tibial Plate, giving it a 20 year history of clinical success.

Minimally invasive techniques utilize instruments that are specifically designed for the technique; however, the implants used are often the same as those used in a traditional procedure with an open exposure. Zimmer believes that the additional benefits of the new implant design will further facilitate the minimally invasive procedure.

The new implant is designed to be used with all Zimmer MIS Total Knee Procedures and is particularly well suited for use with the Zimmer MIS Quad- Sparing(TM) Total Knee Procedure, a technique designed to avoid the quadriceps tendon and muscles rather than cutting through or manipulating them. The quadriceps mechanism is involved in extending the lower leg at the knee joint. When compared to traditional total knee replacement techniques, the Quad- Sparing Technique is accomplished through a smaller and less conspicuous incision, and produces less tissue trauma. Patients typically require a shorter hospital stay, and experience a faster improvement in range of motion.

One of the design elements that allows the implant to accommodate a smaller exposure is the low profile and length of the keel. The subsequent reduced keel length allows the implant to be inserted into the joint through a smaller opening. After the implant has been fixed in place on the proximal tibia, a stem extension can be dropped down through the plate.

According to Alfred J. Tria, Jr., M.D., a developer of the Quad-Sparing Technique, an orthopaedic surgeon at Saint Peter's University Hospital, and a clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, New Jersey, "The MIS stemmed tibial plate will allow us to insert the component within the confines of the small incision for quadriceps-sparing knee replacement with greater ease."

About the Company

Founded in 1927 and headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, Zimmer is the worldwide #1 pure-play orthopaedic leader in designing, developing, manufacturing and marketing reconstructive and spinal implants, trauma and related orthopaedic surgical products. Zimmer has operations in more than 24 countries around the world and sells products in more than 100 countries. Zimmer's 2004 sales were approximately $3 billion. The Company is supported by the efforts of more than 6,500 employees worldwide.

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Zimmer Safe Harbor Statement

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the orthopaedics industry, management's beliefs and assumptions made by management. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terms such as "may," "will," "expects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "estimates," "projects," "targets," "forecasts," and "seeks" or the negative of such terms or other variations on such terms or comparable terminology. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual outcomes and results to differ materially. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, our ability to successfully integrate Centerpulse AG and Implex Corp., the outcome of the Department of Justice investigation announced in March

2005 and the pending informal SEC investigation of Centerpulse accounting, price and product competition, rapid technological development, demographic changes, dependence on new product development, the mix of our products and services, supply and prices of raw materials and products, customer demand for our products and services, control of costs and expenses, our ability to form and implement alliances, international growth, governmental laws and regulations affecting our U.S. and international businesses, including tax obligations and risks, product liability and intellectual property litigation losses, reimbursement levels from third-party payors, general industry and market conditions and growth rates and general domestic and international economic conditions including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the disclosure materials filed by Zimmer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Zimmer disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Readers of this document are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, since, while we believe the assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, there can be no assurance that these forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate. This cautionary statement is applicable to all forward-looking statements contained in this document.

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