FDA Approves TiMesh, A Revolutionary New Device for Hernia Repair

Nashville – March 3, 2004 – GP Surgical, a Nashville-based distributor of medical products, today announced the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of TiMESH, a revolutionary, new mesh device for hernia repair. TiMESH is the only composite hernia mesh made with titanium, offering U.S. surgeons and patients one of the most innovative and reliable new treatment options for the most common surgical procedure in America.

Light, strong and totally biocompatible because of its inertness and immunity to corrosion by all body fluids and tissue, titanium is one of few materials that naturally match the requirements for implantation in the human body. TiMESH’s unique composite design combines the proven benefits of titanium with the comfort and flexibility of polypropylene. Cutting edge nanotechnology is used to develop TiMESH with its ideal surgical mesh properties, including biocompatibility, resistance to infection and the ability to be recognized by the body as a solid titanium implant.

“This is the first time the superior properties of titanium have been available to hernia patients in a mesh,” said Larry Griffith, principal, GP Surgical. “Titanium, which has been successfully used in implant surgeries for more than 25 years, helps distinguish TiMESH from other hernia meshes by offering many advantages, such as biocompatibility and the reduced risk of scar tissue formation.”

TiMESH is specifically indicated for laparoscopic and open surgery for the repair of direct or indirect inguinal, femoral, umbilical and incisional hernias; rectal, vaginal and apical prolapses; and parietal reinforcement of tissues and abdominal wall repair. Since 2002 more than 70,000 TiMESH have been implanted in patients in Western Europe. It is now available to the 750,000 hernia patients seeking treatment each year in the United States and can be used during all hernia surgical procedures.

“There continues to be controversy among surgeons all over the world as to the best approach to fix hernias. The limiting factor of all techniques to varying degrees is pain after surgery and recurrence of the hernia,” said Jonathan Yunis M.D., F.A.C.S., a Sarasota, Fla.-based surgeon specializing in hernia repair. “Laparoscopic hernia repair offers many advantages to open surgery, such as less discomfort after surgery, possibly decreased risk of infection and possibly a more rapid return to full activity depending on the patient. TiMESH will allow for more laparoscopic procedures because of its ease of use and cutting edge titanium technology.”

A hernia occurs when the contents of a body cavity bulge out of the area where they are normally contained. These contents, usually portions of intestine or...
abdominal fatty tissue, are often enclosed in the thin membrane that naturally lines the inside of the cavity. Although the term hernia can be used for bulges in other areas, it is most often used to describe hernias of the lower torso (abdominal wall hernias). Inguinal hernias, which occur in the area where the skin crease at the top of the thigh joins the torso (the inguinal crease), make up 75 percent of all abdominal wall hernias and are up to 25 times more likely to occur in men than women.

For more information contact Katie Welch Peterson, 952-294-9814, katiep@newsworthycommunications.com

Nashville-based GP Surgical is the exclusive North American distributor for a revolutionary line of “titanized” (titanium/polypropylene covalent bond) mesh implants, including TiMESH, manufactured by GfE Medizintechnik, GmbH in Germany.

GfE Medizintechnik, GmbH was established in 2002 as an independent subsidiary of GfE Gesellschaft für Metallurgie mbH. GfE develops, manufactures and distributes “titanized” human implants of synthetic materials.

TiMesh Continued from page 1

Fundamentals of Titanium Workshop
June 18, 2004
New York City, New York

Fundamentals of Titanium will prepare you to present and work effectively with job-related functions that involve titanium. You will receive a complete overview of titanium and a thorough grounding in its metallurgy, characteristics, properties and uses.

On June 18th, this course will be taught at the Westin New York at Times Square located at 270 West 43rd Street in New York City. The course will begin at 8:30 am. Registration includes full day workshop, study guide and workshop materials.

Pre-registration ends June 3. To register contact the International Titanium Association at (303) 404-2221.

Who Should Attend?
The workshop is appropriate for professionals that use, process or fabricate components with titanium. Individuals who need an understanding of titanium and its alloys to facilitate their current job functions, or individuals who are interested in using titanium for a future application. Past attendees include:
- Engineers / Designers
- Marketing / Sales
- Operations
- Administrators
- Purchasing
- Quality Control
- Potential Users of Titanium

Attendees receive a 20% discounted voucher for “Titanium” when ordered through the ITA

ITA On-line Titanium Library:
The Membership Committee has developed an on-line technical library that includes the past 20 years ITA Conference Proceedings papers, and will eventually warehouse 50 years of titanium industry news articles and technical papers from all over the world. The library will be the "one-stop resource" for accessing information on the titanium industry in a completely searchable, easy to use format.

ITA Members will have access to the Library free of charge.

If your company is a current member of the ITA and you are interested in receiving a user name and password to access the Library, please email Jennifer Simpson at jsimpson@titanium.org to request access.

The library will be available on the ITA Web Site commencing in June.
Nominations for the Titanium Achievement Award

The International Titanium Association has established an outstanding award for an outstanding individual who has rendered significant contributions and service to the titanium industry.

The criteria for judging eligibility for this award are based upon your comments. When submitting your nomination form please include the nominee’s contribution(s), activities indicating a technical breakthrough for titanium or the new titanium product benefiting the industry, examples of innovative titanium methods or approaches used, and a list of innovations, patents, and/or publications presented to industry. Letters citing personal knowledge of the nominee’s qualifications for the award are recommended. Each nomination shall remain valid for 3 years.

The award will be presented during the annual luncheon at the TITANIUM 2004 – 20th Annual Conference & Exhibition in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 4, 2004. To download a copy of the Titanium Achievement Award nomination form please visit the conference section of the ITA website at www.titanium.org. Submit nomination forms to ITA by June 30, 2004.

Last Call for Papers

The TITANIUM 2004 Conference is designed to provide attendees with the unique opportunity to learn about the advancement of titanium as well as staying current on issues essential to successful titanium practices. This conference also allows attendees to gain valuable insight through exchanging experiences with your colleagues.

ITA invites authors to submit a 200 word or one-page abstract of a topic of interest to a broad audience in your area of expertise related to the titanium industry. ITA will focus specifically on the technical themes provided by our members. We encourage you to contribute as well as contact your colleagues who will have something special to offer to this event. Relevance, timeliness, and quality are the key factors in the reviewing process.

Speakers are required to register for the conference and pay the appropriate fee before June 15, 2004. Authors wishing to present further papers will have an additional administration fee of $100 per paper. Please include the estimated length of time required for your presentation.

Panels include:

World Titanium Trends
Raw Materials
Aerospace
Emerging markets
Medical
Industrial
Corrosion
Emerging Technologies

All papers need to be returned by June 15, 2004.

Send, email or fax your paper to the following address:
International Titanium Association
2655 West Midway Blvd, Suite 300
Broomfield, CO 80021
Phone: 303-404-2221
Fax: 303-404-9111
Email: info@titanium.org
**What’s New In Titanium?**

**Vulcanium Metals Incorporated Welcomes New VP of Finance**

Paul Hofman, a published author in the accounting field, has joined Vulcanium Metals Incorporated as its new Vice-President of Finance. Hofman is responsible for streamlining VMI’s financial processes and making both daily and long-term, company-wide operational decisions. Hofman brings to the titanium industry 38 years of corporate financial experience, both as a consultant for a national accounting firm and in financial management positions for globally known manufacturing and sales organizations. Prior to his business career, Hofman spent six years in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, two of which were served in the Pentagon, rising to the rank of Captain before retiring from military life.

Responsible for all VMI production and administrative functions, Hofman also continues to present current financial topics to many fiscal institutions and associations around the country. With an undergraduate degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, Hofman has both the practical experience and theoretical background to find creative solutions for VMI and its customers.

Hofman is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Illinois CPA Society, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Turnaround Management Association and the National Speakers Association.

**VMI Receives ISO 9001:2000**

Vulcanium Metals Incorporated, a global leader in titanium distribution, is pleased to announce that it has been registered to ISO 9001:2000 through November 2006. This is an upgrade to VMI’s ISO 9002:1994 registration, originally issued in March 2001. VMI’s ISO program is the centerpiece of its quality assurance agenda.

Other VMI approvals include those from Bombardier, Vought, AIDC and the U.S. Department of Defense. Any questions about titanium approvals should be directed to John Van Der Harst, Quality Manager, at 888-326-7556 (toll free outside of Illinois), 847-313-4836 or jvanderharst@Vulcanium.com. Visit VMI on the web at www.Vulcanium.com.

**Richard M. Hays Retires as Secretary Of RTI International Metals, Inc.**

NILES, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 4, 2004--RTI International Metals, Inc., (NYSE:RTI) announced the retirement of its Corporate Secretary, Richard M. Hays. Mr. Hays was a member of the Company's founding Board of Directors when it made its initial public offering in 1990. He stepped down in 1993 to take the office of Corporate Secretary. He is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After an undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and a J.D. degree from Cornell University, Mr. Hays began his career at United States Steel Corporation in 1954. He advanced to Secretary and Assistant General Counsel of the parent company, USX Corporation, before retiring there in 1992.

"I have worked with Dick Hays for over 30 years in a number of venues and on many, many problems and transactions. There is no question Dick Hays sets the gold standard for corporate lawyers and we have been privileged at RTI to have his wise counsel, his wonderful sense of humor, and his friendship. We are also privileged to have a talented general counsel like Dawne Hickton to assume Dick's duties," commented Robert M. Hernandez, Chairman of RTI.

Dawne S. Hickton, RTI's Vice President and General Counsel, will assume the additional duties of Secretary. Prior to joining RTI in 1997, Mrs. Hickton was an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh and associated with the Pittsburgh firm of Burns, White and Hickton in an Of Counsel capacity. Prior to that, she spent 10 years as an attorney for USX Corporation. Mrs. Hickton is a graduate of the University of Rochester and received a J.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

RTI International Metals, headquartered in Niles, Ohio, is one of the world's largest producers of titanium. Through its various subsidiaries, RTI manufactures and distributes titanium and specialty metal mill products, extruded shapes, formed parts and engineered systems for aerospace, industrial, defense, energy, chemical and consumer applications for customers around the world.

Technical Discussion Forum /Committee News

Technical Discussion Forum

The Technical Discussion Forum is an excellent opportunity to educate the general public on titanium. This Forum allows individuals to post questions or seek advice on applications involved with titanium. ITA relies on membership to actively participate in assisting with technical questions. To post an answer please visit the Technical Support section of the ITA website at www.titanium.org.

Specifications: SB-862 Welded Pipe
Can you explain the explanation of SB-862 welded pipe in ASMe code book? If you cold form SB-265 plate into pipe, is this than subjected to heat treatment. In Section 21.1.6, Heat treatment conditions examples also shows, not heat treated (No HT) for markings. When would this be used?

Specifications: T40 Titanium
Does any one know T40 Titanium per AIR9182? This spec is taken from an AIRBUS print.

Specifications: Ti-Alloy 8083
I have a drawing that indicates Ti-Alloy 8083 material. I can not find any Titanium Alloy that is close to this number. If this is not correct, what Ti Alloy would be close to this and the specifications?

Titanium Grade 2: Please provide following info on Titanium Grade 1 and 2
I'd like to know which is the friction coefficient in contacts titanium-titanium.

Processing Titanium: Is 6Al-4V Titanium Suitable for Use in High RPM Engines?
I would like to know if common 6-4 titanium is suitable for the construction of connecting rods in continuous high rpm small engines? Typically 4 cylinder under 500cc engines with a maximum speed of 15,000 rpm.

Medical Applications: Bowel Adhesion to Titanium
I am searching for literature/documentation regarding titanium and adhesions to bowel tissue.

Safety: Hyperbaric Oxygen Environment & Fire Risk
During the administration of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, patients are exposed to 100% oxygen at a pressure of as much as 3 atmospheres absolute (29.4 psig). A recent commentary has raised a safety question based on cited evidence of fresh titanium ignition upon exposure to flowing oxygen at 4.4 ATA: Would the breaking of a titanium eyeglass frame exposed to 100% oxygen at 3 ATA pose a fire hazard? There have been no reported incidents, and it seems unlikely that there is a major risk (particularly considering the strength of ti frames).

Anodizing Titanium: Dimensional Stabilization
Hat thermal processing will yield the most dimensionally stable 6AL4V ELI substrates for mirrors?

Titanium Reaction to Metals and Other: Galvanic corrosion between 6AL-4V and Inco 718
Application is a jet fuel fluid piping system. Components of the piping system are in contact. The 6AL-4V titanium parts comprise the bulk of the parts. Inconel 718 in the form of a spring loaded pawl, is in continuous contact with the Titanium. The parts are external to all fluids. Temperatures will range from -40F to +400F. Is there any threat from galvanic corrosion?

ITA Specifications Committee
It’s that time… ITA is calling all members to participate in updating the ITA Specification Booklet. This Specification Booklet includes member changes (as applicable) to current specifications, international titanium specification information, as well as inclusion of current applications as relates to alloys.

Because your time is precious, we are asking for members willing to dedicate 2 hours of time a month to review the current specification booklet and indicate any changes. Even if a handful of updated specifications are helpful!

Interested members wishing to participate should contact Stacey Blicker at telephone (303) 404-9400 or via email to sblicker@titanium.org.

Send Your Press Release
ITA members are invited to submit a press release for the ITA Newsletter. Submit your titanium articles to the ITA by first of every month to appear in the next Newsletter. Articles should be e-mailed directly to sblicker@titanium.org.
Industry Conferences

AESF SUR/FIN® 2004 and INTERFINISH 2004 World Congress

June 28-July 1  Chicago Navy Pier

Technical Presentations  Education  Exhibits
Details available at: www.aesf.org
Click on Conferences then SUR/FIN logo


Calendar of Events

**June 2004**

7-10  Aeromat 2004, Seattle, WA USA
8-10  Global Petroleum Show, Alberta, Canada
13-17 PM2TEC2004, Chicago, IL USA
17  Fundamentals of Titanium, New York, New York

**July 2004**

13-14  Welding in the Defense Industry Conference, Orlando, FL
Classified Ads

The Classified’s section of the ITA Web Site is located at www.titanium.org. When you submit a classified ad, ITA will proof your advertisement, process your payment, and post it to the website within 3 business days.

Complimentary Publication:

Free Guide to Weld Purging
Name of Your Company: Huntingdon Fusion Techniques Ltd
Contact Email: www.huntingdonfusion.com
Description: The Company has specialized in Weld Purging Technology since 1975 and has developed a number of weld purging accessories which are used internationally in Industries fabricating with Titanium. All Companies welding titanium materials will benefit from having a copy of the guide available. This 20 page A5 booklet is presented as a glossary of weld purge terms and information from A to Z. Apply by email for an electronic copy; for hard copies to be mailed, state the number of copies and the current postal address.

Business Opportunity:

Metallurgical - Manufacturing Engineer
Contact Name: Miles A. Abkowitz
Contact Email: maabkowitz@dynamettechnology.com
Description: Challenging position for a metallurgist, materials engineer or mechanical engineer with experience in powder metallurgy and/or titanium materials, processes and applications. Candidate must be technically versatile, combining hands on mechanical capability with strong writing ability and excellent customer contact skills. To be responsive, candidate must provide a cover letter stating qualifications for this position, a resume and salary requirements. A complete description can be located on the classified section of the ITA website at www.titanium.org.

Materials For Sale:

Titanium and Steel Extruded Shapes
Name of Your Company: Plymouth Extruded Shapes
Contact Name: Gary Ezell, gezell@plymouth.com
Description: Plymouth Extruded Shapes is a member of the Plymouth Tube Company, manufactures titanium & steel extruded shapes for numerous industries, including aerospace, transportation, heavy equipment and machinery, food and dairy, pulp and paper, textile, architectural and medical industries. Call to find out how we can save you cost, labor and scrap or visit: www.extrusions@plymouth.com

ERTi1/ERTi-2 Wire
Name of Your Company: Grandis Titanium
Contact Name: www.ti4sale.com
Description: To better serve our valued customers, Grandis Titanium is pleased to announce, in addition to ERTi1/ERTi-2 wire, beginning of stocking program for AWS A5.16 / SFA 5.16 ERTi-12 welding wire. Currently we stock sizes 1/16”, 3/32” and 1/8”, see list below. Wire currently in stock was manufactured by Ti Wire Corp. Other sizes also available with lead time. Contact us with all your requirements for weld wire, as well as for other commercial titanium products.

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Titanium CP Gr.2
Contact Name: John Li
Name of Your Company: Affinity International LLC
Contact Email: john1098@adelphia.net, TEL: 626-935-5588
Description: Titanium CP Gr.2 slabs in stock for sale. Most sizes include 7” x 26” x 51”. Good condition. Please contact with us if you need, they may sell out very soon. Affinity supplies high quality Titanium ingot and slabs from China with competitive price and short lead time.

Materials Wanted:

Looking to buy Titanium Usables.
Name of Your Company: North American Alloys
Contact Name: Steve Meredith, steve@northamericanalloys.com
Description: North American Alloys is looking to buy excess inventories of usable titanium materials in all alloys and forms. Please contact Steve at 1-866-577-4161 or e-mail at steve@northamericanalloys.com

Titanium CP And 6-4 Secondary Usable Material
Name of Your Company: Affinity International, LLC
Contact Name: John Li
Contact Email: john1098@adelphia.net
Description: We are looking for titanium CP and 6-4 secondary usable material or scrap material in big quantity. Such as slab, bar, plate, sheet and coils.

Products For Sale:

Titanium Mill Products In Stock
Name of Your Company: North American Alloys
Contact Name: Steve Meredith
Contact Email: Steve@northamericanalloys.com
Description: North American Alloys has over 300,000 lbs of titanium alloy mill products in stock at our Los Angeles area warehouse. Sheet, Plate, Bar, Flatbar, Block and Tubing available in many alloys including 6-4, 6-2-4-2, 6-6-2, CP, etc. Our Entire inventory is listed on our website by alloy and size. Visit us on the web at www.northamericanalloys.com
Current Membership Includes the Following Companies

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<td>Allegheny Technologies Incorporated</td>
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<td>Allegheny Ludlum</td>
<td>President Titanium Incorporated</td>
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<td>Allegheny Rodney</td>
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<td>Allvac</td>
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<td>Titanium International Europe</td>
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<td>Wah Chang</td>
<td>Rixh Ti-Casting Industrial Co., Ltd.</td>
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<td>Plymouth Tube Company</td>
<td>Xiamen Huaxia International Trading Co. Ltd</td>
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<td>Founded in 1984 the International Titanium Association is a nonprofit networking trade association for the titanium industry. The primary focus of the Association is to promote the continued growth of the industry as well as educate the public on benefits and implementation of using titanium. Current membership includes 100+ organizations.</td>
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