



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Martin
Vice President of International Sales and Marketing
Ascension Orthopedics, Inc.
+491722629589

ASCENSION ORTHOPEDICS RECEIVES CE MARK APPROVAL FOR THE ASCENSION® PIP PYROCARBON TOTAL JOINT

AUSTIN, TX — July 6, 2001: Ascension Orthopedics, Inc. (AOI) has received CE Mark approval to market its second PyroCarbon implant product, the Ascension® PIP, within the European Common Market.

“This regulatory approval once again confirms Ascension’s revolutionary technology and will allow us to provide another solution to hand surgeons dealing with patients with debilitating arthritis,” said Jerry Klawitter, President and CEO of Ascension.

AOI had received approval to market the Ascension® PIP in Australia on May 24, 2001, and is pursuing approval in other international markets. AOI’s first PyroCarbon implant, the Ascension® MCP, received CE Mark approval in December 1999 and has been submitted for FDA approval in the United States.

The Ascension® PIP was officially introduced in June to members of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand by the collaborating design surgeons, Dr. Robert Beckenbaugh of the Mayo Clinic and Professor John Stanley of the Wrightington Hospital in England.

The Ascension® PIP PyroCarbon total joint – developed to replace the proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint of the hand – is anatomically designed and produced in four interchangeable sizes.

Ascension Orthopedics is dedicated to the research, development, manufacture and distribution of revolutionary PyroCarbon orthopedic implants to replace the small skeletal joints of the hand, upper extremity, and foot. The company founders are pioneers in using PyroCarbon to combat the debilitating effects of arthritis.

- 30 -