



For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 31, 2005

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **VASCULAR SOLUTIONS COMMENCES SALES OF PRONTO EXTRACTION CATHETER IN JAPAN**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota -- Vascular Solutions, Inc. (Nasdaq:VASC) today announced that it has received notification from its Japanese distribution partner Nihon Kohden Corporation that the import license and reimbursement notification for the sale of the Pronto catheter in Japan have been completed. Sales of the Pronto catheter to Nihon Kohden for distribution in Japan are commencing immediately. The Pronto catheter is designed for the mechanical aspiration removal of acute thrombus from the arterial system.

Howard Root, CEO of Vascular Solutions, Inc. commented: "After the United States, we believe that Japan is the second largest market for thrombus aspiration catheters. We are very pleased with both the speed of completing the Japanese registration process, which was completed one quarter ahead of schedule, and the focus of our distribution partner Nihon Kohden, which has demonstrated itself as a professional and successful distributor of medical devices in Japan since 1951. We continue to believe that removal of acute thrombus is a potential \$100 million annual worldwide market opportunity that we are only beginning to realize with the Pronto as it enters its second year of commercial launch and expanding worldwide markets."

Mr. Masami Sugiyama, Corporate Director and General Manager of Import Business Operations of Nihon Kohden Corporation commented: "By collaborating with Vascular Solutions, one of the leading innovators in interventional cardiology, we are able to extend our presence into the soft thrombus removal market here in Japan. The Pronto extraction catheter allows us to better meet the needs of our customers by providing a product with state-of-the-art technology and high performance. We believe the combination of Nihon Kohden's nationwide sales network and Vascular Solutions' Pronto extraction catheter will prove to be mutually beneficial for both organizations. We look forward to the successful collaboration with Vascular Solutions as we set out to strengthen our position in the vascular intervention market."

#### **ABOUT VASCULAR SOLUTIONS**

Vascular Solutions, Inc. is a medical device company that focuses on developing unique solutions for unmet clinical opportunities in non-surgical vascular procedures. New products introduced since the second half of 2003 include the Vari-Lase® endovenous laser product line for the treatment of varicose veins, the D-Stat Dry™ hemostatic bandage for the rapid control of topical bleeding, the Pronto™ extraction catheter for the mechanical extraction of soft thrombus, and the Langston™ dual lumen catheter for the measurement of aortic stenosis. The Company's other products include the Duett™ sealing device to rapidly seal the puncture site following catheterization procedures, the D-Stat® Flowable hemostat for the local management of active bleeding, and the Acolysis® intravascular therapeutic ultrasound product which is sold in international markets for the treatment of peripheral occlusive arterial disease.

The information in this press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements. Important factors that may cause such differences include those discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 and other recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, risks associated with our limited operating history, need for adoption of our new products, lack of profitability, exposure to possible intellectual property claims, dependence on key vendors, exposure to possible product liability claims, the development of new products by others, doing business in international markets, the availability of third party reimbursement, and actions by the FDA.

For further information on Vascular Solutions, connect to [www.vascularsolutions.com](http://www.vascularsolutions.com)

#### ABOUT NIHON KOHDEN CORPORATION

Nihon Kohden is Japan's leading manufacturer, developer and distributor of patient monitors, defibrillators, ECGs, EEGs, EP/EMGs, hematology analyzers and other medical electronic equipment, with net sales of \$787 million in its 2004 fiscal year. For further information on Nihon Kohden, visit the company's web site at [www.nihonkohden.com](http://www.nihonkohden.com).