

RITA Entitled to European Patent; 27 Claims Approved

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., Feb. 7 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- RITA Medical Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq: RITA) announced today that the European Patent Office (EPO) has determined that RITA is entitled to a European patent (EP 0 777 445) covering radiofrequency ablation technology. The EPO approved 27 claims, despite the opposition proceeding brought by RadioTherapeutics Corporation (now part of Boston Scientific Corporation), which had sought to invalidate the patent.

Barry Cheskin, RITA President and CEO said, "This is yet another validation of the strength of our worldwide patent portfolio, which is extremely broad in its coverage with early filing dates." Further, Cheskin noted that, to RITA's knowledge, Boston Scientific does not have any corresponding patent in this area in Europe, further strengthening RITA's position.

About RITA Medical Systems, Inc.

RITA Medical Systems develops, manufactures and markets innovative products for patients with solid cancerous or benign tumors. The proprietary RITA system uses radiofrequency energy to heat tissue to a high enough temperature to ablate it or cause cell death. While the company's current focus is on liver cancer, the company believes that its minimally invasive technology may in the future be applied to other types of tumors, including tumors of the lung, bone, breast, fibroids, prostate and kidney. The company has received regulatory clearance in major markets worldwide, including the United States. In March 2000, RITA became the first radiofrequency ablation company to receive specific FDA clearance for unresectable liver lesions in addition to its previous general FDA clearance for the ablation of soft tissue. The company has sold over 35,000 of its disposable devices throughout the world.

The statements in this news release related to the company's plans to extend its technology to applications beyond the liver are forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. Further information regarding these and other risks is included in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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