



For Immediate Release

Tri-Medics' New Fully-Adjustable Plastic Positioning Support is an Industry First for Orthopedic Surgery

Solvay's Radel[®] PPSU Provides Strength and Autoclavability in Easy-to-Use Support Device

ALPHARETTA, Ga., July 8, 2011 – Tri-Medics, LLC, Foxboro, Mass., a leading manufacturer of medical devices and instrumentation, has unveiled the industry's first fully-adjustable plastic positioning support for orthopedic trauma surgery. The Bender adjustable positioning triangle, made of Radel[®] polyphenylsulfone (PPSU) resin from Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, a Solvay Specialty Polymers company and global supplier of high-performance polymers, offers surgeons a simple and easy-to-use solution that is adjustable, autoclavable, and radiolucent for x-ray use.

The Bender triangle is adjustable to the human anatomy, simplifies surgical procedures, and decreases operating room time, according to Bradley Bender, Tri-Medics president and inventor of the patented device. It is a highly effective alternative to expensive and more complicated fixed positioning supports made of foam rubber and metal.

“This one-of-kind device gives surgeons a broader view as well as greater control and precision,” said Bender. “Radel PPSU played a major role by delivering high strength and radiotranslucence.”

Radel PPSU offers high strength during intramedullary (IM) nailing of the femur and tibia and other manipulative actions. The unique device is used for universal positioning for IM nailing, plating, and external fixation applications. The Bender consists of three injection molded adjustable sides that form a triangular structure or as a single unit for an optimum starting point during IM nailing of the tibia. The triangle allows the surgeon an unlimited range of adjustments for positioning the patient extremities as needed for specific procedures. It can be configured to any angle or height as a unit or segmented for hyperflexion and optimal exposure.

Radel PPSU also offers excellent chemical resistance and withstands repeated autoclaving – up to 1,000 cycles – while maintaining its toughness and impact resistance. The material is a super-tough transparent thermoplastic with a heat distortion temperature (HDT) of 207°C (405°F).

The Bender triangle – which consists of three sides and three pivot corners – is made entirely of Radel PPSU, except for six stainless steel nuts, according to designer Jeffrey Kapec, co-principal and executive vice president of Tanaka Kapec Design Group, a leading industrial design and product development firm in Norwalk, Conn. The four-pound device slides together and is assembled with pins made of Radel PPSU.

Radel PPSU beat out competitive thermoplastics such as polyetherimide (PEI), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), and polycarbonate (PC) due to a number of performance attributes including processability and repeated autoclaving without warping. The 30-cm (12-in) long sides – injection molded by General Pattern, Blaine, Minn. – were made in 0.5-cm (3/16-in) thick sections without sink marks, according to Kapec.

Tri-Medics sells the Bender adjustable positioning triangle nationally to surgeons and hospitals.

Solvay Advanced Polymers is a global leader in the development of sulfone polymer technology, launching Udel[®] polysulfone nearly 45 years ago. In addition, Solvay's experience as a key materials supplier in the healthcare field spans more than 20 years. The company is a leading manufacturer of high-performance specialty polymers, offering a broad range of materials for healthcare instruments and medical devices. More recently, Solvay has successfully introduced its line of Solviva Biomaterials and offers them for use in a range of implantable devices.

About Tri-Medics LLC

Tri-Medics, LLC, based in Foxboro, Mass., is a leading developer and manufacturer of leading-edge medical devices and instrumentation. The company is an inventor and supplier of innovative products that reduce medical cost, improve patient outcome, save time, and/or reduce frustration. More information is available at (888) 490-5321 or visit www.tri-medics.com.

About Tanaka Kapec Design Group

Tanaka Kapec Design Group is an award-winning design consultancy which serves the rapidly changing needs of Fortune 500 companies and small venture funded companies. The firm offers complete end-to-end turnkey services from early stage concept development, ergonomic assessment, computer modeling through final engineering documents and production design support. TKDG focuses on projects which range in scale and complexity from hand-held instruments to complex interactive systems, from diagnostic equipment to consumer products and packaging. A team approach facilitates the integration of technical, economic, and management expertise into the planning and design of each project. TKDG has been awarded 40 national and international utility and design patents with a number of patents currently pending. More information is available at (203) 846-3666 or visit www.tkdg.com.

About Solvay Specialty Polymers

Solvay Specialty Polymers is comprised of the activities of the Solvay Advanced Polymers, Solvay Solexis and Solvay Padanaplast companies along with the Ixan[®] and Diofan[®] PVDC product lines. As the manufacturer of more products with more performance than any other polymer company in the world, Solvay Specialty Polymers supplies over 1500 products across 33 brands of high-performance polymers – fluoropolymers, fluoroelastomers, fluorinated fluids, semi-aromatic polyamides, sulfone polymers, aromatic ultra polymers, high-barrier polymers and

cross-linked high-performance compounds – for use in Aerospace, Alternative Energy, Automotive, Healthcare, Membranes, Oil & Gas, Packaging, Plumbing, Semiconductors, Wire & Cable, and other markets. Learn more at www.solvayspecialtypolymers.com.

Solvay is an international industrial Group active in Chemistry. It offers a broad range of products and solutions that contribute to improving quality of life. The Group is headquartered in Brussels and its companies employ 17,000 people in over 40 countries. In 2010, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 7.1 billion. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: [SOLB.BE](http://www.nyse.com/quote/NYSE:SOLB) - Bloomberg: [SOLB.BB](http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/SOLB:BB) - Reuters: [SOLBt.BR](http://www.reuters.com/quote/SOLBT:BR)). Details are available at www.solvay.com.

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