TORONTO – October 15, 2008 – DePuy Spine, Inc., continues its steady rhythm of product introductions with the launch of its two latest, the BENGAL® Stackable Cage System and the X-MESH™ Expandable Cage System, vertebral body replacement (VBR) systems that offer surgeons multiple implant options for multi-level corpectomies, it was announced here at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the North American Spine Society (NASS).

Since 2007, DePuy Spine has launched 18 products in the categories of aging spine, cervical, degenerative, deformity, interbody fusion, vertebral body replacement, trauma and minimally invasive spine (MIS) surgery, adding nearly one new product per month to its portfolio of spinal care solutions.

“From a product standpoint, DePuy Spine is focused on two things – working with spine surgeons to improve current techniques and to pioneer new technologies that have the potential to transform spinal care and make a real difference in the lives of patients,” said Gary Fischetti, Worldwide President, DePuy Spine. “We have a strong track record in both areas.”

The BENGAL Stackable Cage System is the first VBR system to include both monolithic (single-piece) and stackable implants and the X-MESH Expandable Cage System is the first VBR system to come in three approach-specific shapes for the anterolateral, direct anterior and posterior approaches.

Earlier in the year DePuy Spine introduced new and innovative MIS solutions for degenerative disease including the VIPER™2 Pedicle Screw Fixation System, the first and only complete rod and pedicle screw system that can be used to perform minimally invasive spinal fixation across the length of the entire thoracolumbar spine (T1 to Sacrum), with curved and straight rods of lengths from 30 to 480 mm. The Company also introduced the SPOTLIGHT™ Access System, the only port system with integrated fiber optics that eliminates shadows by providing 360 degrees of light at the distal end.

DePuy Spine’s thoracolumbar portfolio was bolstered by three new additions to the EXPEDIUM™ Spine System: The EXPEDIUM 6.35 and PEEK Rod Systems, and the EXPEDIUM SFX Cross Connector System. The Company also introduced the AEGIS™ Anterior Lumbar Plate System, featuring the lowest profile of any anterior lumbar plate system.

New additions to the cervical portfolio included the EAGLE™ Plus and SWIFT™ Plus Anterior Cervical Plating Systems with additional plating options for anatomically challenging procedures and the VERTIGRAFT® VG1® Cervical Allograft, an innovative bio-implant for anterior cervical fusion surgery designed to align with the spinal anatomy for maximum stability and freeze-dried for easy storage.
For posterior cervical procedures, DePuy Spine introduced its next generation MOUNTAINEER™ OCT Spine System, a comprehensive solution featuring new instruments and implants for rigid posterior fixation of the occipito-cervico-thoracic regions of the spine.

Diagnostic testing for scoliosis is a new area for DePuy Spine. The Company continues to work with Axial Biotech, Inc. to bring SCOLISCORE™, a new DNA-based prognostic test for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, to market in 2009. This will help surgeons, for the first time, predict through genetic testing which cases of scoliosis are likely to progress to help better determine a treatment path.

The EXPEDIUM family of products continues to grow with the addition of the EXPEDIUM 4.5 Spine System for the treatment of complex deformity in small-stature patients. The complete set of in-line, low profile implants is designed to reduce the disruption of soft tissue and overcome cosmetic challenges.

The aging spine continues to be a big focus for DePuy Spine. This year the Company launched the CONFIDENCE SPINAL CEMENT SYSTEM™, a proprietary delivery system and novel polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) bone cement that is injected directly into vertebral bodies to treat compression fractures, a painful condition that occurs when one or more vertebrae collapse, usually because of osteoporosis.

DePuy Spine continues to lay the clinical, educational and economic foundation for investments it made last year in total facet arthroplasty and annulus repair. Last year, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson Development Corporation (JJDC), the Company formed a strategic alliance with Biomerix Corporation, a medical technology company developing novel devices in orthopedic, endovascular, and neurovascular medicine. The investment will be used to advance the company’s development programs including the design of a new annulus repair implant following lumbar discectomy.

About DePuy Spine

DePuy Spine, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company, has worked and partnered with leading clinicians, researchers, and thought leaders to develop products to treat spine disorders for over 20 years. The Company is committed to advancing the knowledge of all health care professionals and their patients in addressing spinal pathologies.

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