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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THEKEN ANNOUNCES PATENT AWARDED FOR MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPINAL INSTRUMENTATION

Randy Theken is co-inventor of US patent 7,278,997 B1 for instrument guide and implant holder

AKRON, OH – (November 21, 2007) Theken Spine, a leader in spinal fixation systems, announces it was awarded US patent 7,278,997 B1 for a multifunctional instrument used in spinal fusion surgery. The device is an instrument guide and implant holder. This instrument is used to hold the Tether™ Anterior Cervical plate while drilling, tapping and advancing the screw into the bone.

Theken's engineering design philosophy is developing systems with *fewer parts, fewer steps*. "Our mission is to decrease the amount of time it takes to perform a surgery and the amount of implants required," states Dale Davison, VP of Engineering for Theken Spine. "Designing and patenting multifunctional instruments reduces the number of steps required to perform a surgery, which inevitably helps decrease operating time." With the cost of health care on the rise, this benefits both the patient and the medical community. In addition to cost savings, surgical outcomes may be improved due to less blood loss during the surgical procedure.



The Theken family of companies holds 47 US patents, 18 International patents and 60 patents pending.

About Theken, a family of companies

The Theken (Pronounced 'tay-ken') family of companies Theken Spine, LLC, Theken Disc, LLC, Theken Orthopaedic, Inc. and Therics, LLC (www.theken.com) specializes in pioneering spinal implant technologies that improve spinal surgical techniques benefiting patients as well as surgeons. Theken provides comprehensive product lines that offer surgeons peace of mind through steadfast product reliability and easy-to-use instrumentation. Products include cervical plates, pedicle screws, spacers, degenerative/deformity devices and trauma/tumor devices. Theken also leads the market in next generation artificial disc replacement technology.

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