NEWS RELEASE

IEEE INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATION
ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF NEW INDUSTRY GROUP

PISCATAWAY, N.J. -- 12 February 1999 -- Adoption of standardized data communications between medical devices will be accelerated with the formation of the Medical Device Communications Industry Group, the first industry group organized within the IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization (IEEE-ISTO).

The IEEE-ISTO is a major new initiative in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). Established in January 1999, this new organization is an independent, not-for-profit corporation offering industry an innovative and flexible forum and services for development and post-development standards activities (e.g., marketing, certification, branding, conformity assessment, specification development). This unique organization provides a forum not only to develop specifications, but also to facilitate the activities that support standards or specifications in the marketplace.

"The formation of the Medical Device Communications Industry Group serves as an excellent example of the alternative processes, procedures, and services many industries need today to promote a standard in the marketplace. We look forward to working with the Medical Device Communications Industry Group to meet their goals and objectives," said Andrew Salem, president and CEO of the IEEE-ISTO.

The Medical Device Communications Industry Group was formed to accelerate, promote, and support the activities of the IEEE 1073 (Medical Information Bus) Standards Committee of the IEEE Standards Association, and to foster adoption of the IEEE 1073 family of standards by medical device vendors and healthcare providers. The IEEE 1073 Standard for Medical Device Communications allows clinicians to link patient connected bedside medical devices to a bedside patient monitoring device or a computer network in a simple fashion. This permits comprehensive data capture from devices such as infusion pumps, ventilators, and patient monitors connected to acutely ill patients.

"The Medical Device Communications Industry Group provides a forum for medical device vendors to work together to support and accelerate the development of the IEEE 1073 Standards, as well as market and demonstrate the capabilities of standardized medical data communications," stated Bob Kennelly, executive director. "The four

founding sponsors, ALARIS Medical Systems, Hewlett-Packard Company, Siemens Medical Systems, and GE Marquette Medical Systems, recognize the importance of standards for medical device communications. Between 10 and 15 vendors are expected to join this effort in 1999."

Tony Semedo, vice president, corporate development, at ALARIS Medical Systems stated, "ALARIS was looking to accelerate progress in the IEEE 1073 Committee and foster implementations of the standard. The IEEE-ISTO seemed to be the perfect method to cooperatively fund both objectives. The Medical Device Communications Industry Group complements the IEEE consensus process by funding, marketing, positioning, and technical editing efforts that are in the industry's common interest."

For further information about the Medical Device Communications Industry Group and the IEEE 1073 Standards, contact Bob Kennelly, executive director, at +1-603-279-9965 or b.kennelly@ieee.org

For additional information on the IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization (http://standards.ieee.org/industry/), contact Peter Lefkin, secretary treasurer and CFO, at p.lefkin@ieee.org or +1-732-562-3802.

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