CONMED'S Linvatec Subsidiary Introduces Six New Products at the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Annual Meeting

February 12, 2002

UTICA, N.Y., Feb 12, 2002 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- CONMED Corporation (Nasdaq: CNMD) announced today that its Linvatec subsidiary, which specializes in the orthopedic areas of arthroscopy and powered instruments, will introduce six new products at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) in Dallas, Texas, February 13-17, 2002. Following is a summary of the new offerings:

PowerPro(R) Battery Family of Large Bone Powered Surgical Instruments
The PowerPro Battery System is the newest addition to the PowerPro(R) family of products which began with the PowerPro(R) Electric System released by Linvatec in 2000. The PowerPro(R) Electric and Battery Systems are each based on a single common set of PowerPro(R) Modular attachments and Hall(R) Surgical Cutting accessories to provide system versatility and simplified inventory management for the user.

The PowerPro(R) Electric System combines high performance software technology with hermetically sealed electronics to produce what the Company believes to be the most powerful and reliable orthopedic battery powered system available on the market. The PowerPro(R) Battery System was designed for full functionality in a wide range of orthopedic procedures including large bone arthroplasty (hips and knees), arthroscopy (knee and shoulder), small bone orthopedics (hand and foot), and orthopedic trauma. The PowerPro(R) Battery System has three styles of handpieces: Single-Trigger Modular, Two-Trigger Modular, and Oscillating Saw. Each of the modular handpieces operates 18 modular attachments, permitting numerous functions including sawing, drilling, reaming, pin placement, wire placement, screw placement and tapping functions.

The battery options available with the new system add increased flexibility to satisfy the specific needs of each user. Each of the modular handpieces may be operated using either a large or small battery. This enables the user to tailor the speed and torque of the handpiece to the requirements of many different clinical applications. The PowerPro(R) System also offers a patented Sterile Transfer Battery System, which eliminates the need to sterilize the battery pack, ensuring longer battery life and significant cost savings.

The most significant feature of the PowerPro(R) Battery offering is the patented SureCharge(TM) Battery Sterilization System. This revolutionary advancement in battery technology introduces a new way to process batteries between uses. The SureCharge(TM) System is the first system for sale in any market that allows for the steam sterilization of a battery before it is charged. CONMED has invented a method for preserving the sterility of a battery during the charging process and for delivering a fully charged, sterile battery to the operating room. The SureCharge(TM) System guarantees the delivery of a fully charged, sterile battery. This system will also provide significant cost savings by prolonging the life of the batteries used in the PowerPro(R) battery system.

Trident(TM) Ablation Expansion
The one-of-a-kind Trident(TM) Resection Ablator product line has been expanded with a new addition to the line. The new 4.2 mm Trident(TM) Omega incorporates a Mako(TM) shaver blade and features an aspiration capability to remove bubbles associated with the ablation process. The Trident(TM)Omega is especially effective for use in subacromial decompressions and acromioplasty procedures.

The Trident(TM) product allows the surgeon to resect soft tissue in the traditional manner, using a Linvatec shaver blade, while utilizing the same instrument for ablation as well. By simply rotating the shaver blade 180 degrees and activating the electrode by means of the ES generator footswitch, the Trident(TM) can perform low power ablation as well as coagulation. The Trident(TM) is used in conjunction with the Linvatec Advantage(R) shaver and power system, which incorporates the lightest, most powerful shaver in its class for resection. The ablation and coagulation function is powered by and compatible with, several electrosurgical generators presently available in the marketplace today, such as the ConMed Excalibur(R) PC and Sabre(TM) 180 and 2400 models.

Hornet(TM) Insertion Device
The Hornet, a new insertion device for the BioStinger(R) bioabsorbable miniscal implant, provides a simple one-handed delivery of the implant. Colored handles correspond to the three implant sizes (10, 13, 16mm) and provide easy recognition in the operating room.

UltraFix RC(R) Inserter
The UltraFix RC(R) implant provides fixation strength for mini-open or arthroscopic rotator cuff repair. The delivery of the implant is now available in an ergonomically designed pre-loaded, pre-threaded disposable insertion device or a reusable, re-loadable version. Both delivery systems provide tactile and audible feedback when the anchor is locked in place.

Small Joint HeatWave(TM)
For thermal modification, Linvatec is introducing the Small Joint HeatWave(TM), for use in wrist and ankle procedures where tightening of the small joint ligaments is desired. The small joint HeatWave(TM) compliments our large joint version which has been used in knee and shoulder procedures since its release in 2000. The small joint HeatWave(TM) is a high performance, bendable tip electrode, which is compatible with most ES pencils and generators.

Additional Shaver Blades
Linvatec's new Lightning(TM) blade was specially designed to perform the functions of a shaver blade and a bur all-in-one. It is a high performance resector that effectively resects bone and tissue with precision and ease. The Lightning(TM) is ideal for use in both knee and shoulder arthroscopy.

The new Tiger(TM) blade combines a new tear drop window design with Linvatec's unique pre-bent shaver blade technology for a shaver blade that resects soft tissue with minimal clogging.

The UltraCut(TM) blade provides a unique solution for the aggressive, precision resection of a wide range of tissue, including soft tissue, meniscal tissue, and cartilage. The UltraCut(TM) is also useful for smooth, controlled arthroscopic bone resection.

Mr. Joseph J. Corasanti, President and Chief Operating Officer of CONMED Corporation commented, "Linvatec continues to stay at the forefront of innovation with its latest new products. The PowerPro(R) Battery System is particularly impressive because of its ergonomics, power capabilities, and its unique SureCharge(TM) battery sterilization system."

CONMED is a medical technology company specializing in instruments, implants, and video equipment for arthroscopic sports medicine, and powered surgical instruments (drills and saws) for orthopedic, ENT, neuro-surgery, and other surgical specialties. The Company is also a leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of RF electrosurgery systems used routinely to cut and cauterize tissue in over ninety percent of all surgical procedures worldwide, endoscopy products such as trocars, clip appliers, scissors, and surgical staplers, and a full line of ECG electrodes for heart monitoring and other patient care products. Headquartered in Utica, New York, the Company's 2,500 employees distribute its products worldwide from eight manufacturing locations.

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CONTACT: Robert Shallish, Chief Financial Officer of CONMED Corporation, +1-315-624-3206; or Investors - Theresa Vogt or Lanie Fladell, or Media - Dan Budwick, +1-212-850-5600, all of Morgen-Walke Associates for CONMED Corporation
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