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EndoValve Begins Preclinical Animal Testing of its Mitral-Valve Replacement System, Which Demonstrates Key Feasibility Criteria

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., June 4, 2007 – EndoValve, Inc., a cardiovascular device company developing the first percutaneous valve-replacement system to treat mitral regurgitation, today announced that it has developed a to-scale functional model of the valve and anchor design, successfully demonstrated important feasibility criteria and begun preclinical animal testing.

“The functional 1x-scale model of the valve and anchor design, which is the linchpin of our mitral-valve replacement system, has successfully demonstrated such feasibility criteria as foldability and deployment of the nitinol and stainless steel device,” EndoValve President and CEO Dr. Robert Wilkins told attendees here at the Medtech Insight Investment In Innovation (In³) Medical Device Summit.

“Bench testing on slaughterhouse sheep hearts,” Dr. Wilkins continued, “has demonstrated that when the replacement valve drops from the left atrium into the native mitral valve, it pushes away the native leaflets and is seated in place.

“The feasibility of the replacement’s valve claws anchoring themselves onto the native annulus also has been demonstrated,” he added.

“With these milestones met, we now begin a series of benchtop demonstrations aimed at refining and optimizing functionality of the replacement valve and leading to implantation in a live animal model,” Dr. Wilkins said.

The preclinical animal testing on which Dr. Wilkins reported was conducted last month at the Gorman Cardiac Research Lab at the University of Pennsylvania’s Harrison Department of Clinical Research. The lab is headed by Dr. Joseph Gorman and Dr. Robert Gorman, both members of the EndoValve Scientific Advisory Board.

About EndoValve

Founded in 2005, EndoValve is developing a system that could provide sufferers of mitral regurgitation with a new, less invasive option for early treatment of this progressive, increasingly prevalent disease. EndoValve’s percutaneous mitral-valve replacement approach could provide a better, safer alternative to current treatments and a better alternative to doing nothing, as is the case with the majority of some four million Americans with significant mitral-valve insufficiency. Spun out of the University of Pennsylvania in spring 2006 with a \$2.5-million investment from Battelle Ventures and its affiliate fund, Innovation Valley Partners, the startup company has been functioning as a virtual company, using Battelle Ventures’ offices in Princeton, N.J., as its operational headquarters. For more information about EndoValve, please visit www.endovalve.com.

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