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Tecomet's Photo Chemical Etching Technology Offers New Solution to Spinal and Extremity Companies in Need of Novel Surface Texture

Unique alternative to coating, ideal for tight tolerance product applications with small surface areas

Wilmington, MA, June 8, 2010—Tecomet, www.tecomet.com, a leading contract manufacturer for the medical device and aerospace/defense industries will debut examples of its Tecotex® photo chemical etching technology applied to spinal implants and other small extremity implants at MD&M East, June 8-10, 2010, at the Jacob K. Javitz Convention Center, New York, NY.

Tecomet, an established leader in precision chemical machining, has recently developed Tecotex®, a novel etching process that is a computer-generated, 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional surface texture. Tecotex allows for better primary fixation, enhanced bone on-growth, provides a rough surface with a superior grip, and is ideal for spinal, dental and extremity implants.

"As a result of the increased focus and growth in the spinal implant market," commented Mark Amrich, VP of Etched Products at Tecomet, "we are being approached by spinal companies who are seeing the benefits of our technology, which was previously applied and proven in the orthopedic reconstruction market."

The company's etching process ensures repeatability and uniformity so that each device delivers identical performance. With tight tolerance product applications with smaller surface areas, including wrists, ankles and other small joints, the etched texture is more controllable and has distinct advantages over alternative porous and plasma spray coatings. These 3-dimensional textures are designed to optimize implant fit, stability, bone adhesion, and service life.

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Tecomet's technology allows it to create shapes, patterns and textures of the highest quality, and with the greatest and most accurate repeatability. The process delivers extreme precision with complex, custom designs and extremely fine detail.

This unique technology allows for:

- Low temperature process which maintains important mechanical characteristics
- Multiple texture patterns on a single component
- Texture can graduate from fine to coarse
- Application on very small implants and complex geometries
- Clean, open surface without secondary operations
- Applicable at any stage of manufacturing process

Traditional porous and spray on coatings are not as easily controlled and accurate placement can be very difficult on small implants. While wear debris from additive coatings can cause inflammation, formation of scar tissue or potential infection, chemical etching is a subtractive process that will not generate wear debris while retaining portions of the original datum surfaces.

"Our company is very interested in exploring etching as a technology that could replace porous spray on coatings as well as be put on parts that currently are not able to be coated," commented a current Tecomet client. "Tecomet has the technology and has done the research to come up with a coating and an ability to control the parameters of this etching process in terms of etch depth and location of the textured pattern."

As a result of Tecomet's broad experience in developing and delivering high performance, high quality metal components for medical implants, the company has been instrumental in solving extreme challenges for its customers' critical, tight tolerance applications and exceeding their demands for quality, time to market, and cost.

For more information visit www.tecomet.com or contact Art Burghouwt, Director of Business Development at Tecomet ph. 401-474-6379 or art.burghouwt@tecomet.com

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About Tecomet:

Tecomet is a leading contract manufacturing, engineering and metal fabrication technology company based in Wilmington, Massachusetts. The Company specializes in net shape forging, precision machining, photochemical etching, surface texturing, vacuum brazing, laser and electron beam welding, and rapid prototyping. Tecomet is ISO13485, ISO9001, and AS9100 certified and has over 45 years of experience supplying precision engineered components and assemblies to the medical, aerospace/defense, and commercial/industrial markets, with special emphasis on orthopedic, trauma, and spinal implants. For more information, please visit www.tecomet.com or call 888-287-0400.