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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS RECEIVES “CHAMPION FOR CHANGE”
HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD AT CLEANMED 2009**

*Award Recognizes Ascent’s Contributions to Improving Hospital Sustainability
Through its Medical Device Reprocessing/Remanufacturing Program*

Phoenix, Ariz. – May 20, 2009 – Ascent Healthcare Solutions, a leader in delivering healthcare resource sustainability, announced today it received the “Champion for Change” award at CleanMed 2009, the international conference on environmentally sustainable health care. The award was presented by Robert Jarboe of Practice Greenhealth on Tuesday in Chicago at CleanMed’s 2009 Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony. The award holds highest honors, recognizing Ascent’s environmental excellence based on accomplishments in improving the environmental performance of its hospital partners, as well as its own initiatives to become a more environmentally responsible organization.

During the past 20 years, Ascent’s customers have collectively eliminated an estimated 24 million pounds of waste and reduced in excess of \$1 billion in supply costs. In 2008 alone, its hospital partners eliminated 4.3 million pounds from local landfills and realized a record \$138,142,000 in supply cost and waste savings.

Ascent’s reprocessing/remanufacturing program is one of the only healthcare resource sustainability models that benefits the environment, is focused on maintaining the highest standard of patient safety, provides immediate cost reductions and savings with no upfront

capital investment, and at the same time supports a hospital's ability to invest in improving patient care.

Robert Jarboe, Executive Director, Practice Greenhealth explained, "I have been consistently impressed with the persistent, focused way that Ascent Healthcare Solutions has approached its environmental sustainability effort. This is clearly a company that is serious about reducing its footprint and contributing to a healthier, cleaner health care environment."

John Grotting, Ascent's CEO, stated, "We are pleased to be awarded 'Champion for Change' for our contributions to the greening of healthcare. In this challenging climate – both economically and environmentally, our program provides hospitals with a sustainability solution that fits seamlessly into daily operations and produces dramatic results that are environmentally responsible and patient care focused."

Grotting continued, "Our program most often serves as the catalyst for our hospital partners to launch other initiatives that reduce harm to the environment and support the health and well being of the communities they serve. We take our role in this transformation seriously both as an enabler of environmentally sound practices and as an environmentally-focused resource sustainability organization."

ABOUT ASCENT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

By continuously pioneering sustainability initiatives in healthcare, Ascent Healthcare Solutions has become a leader in the medical device industry. Ascent's programs target inefficient practices to reclaim and redirect consumable and financial resources to promote healthy and responsible hospitals. Today, Ascent's medical device sustainability programs deliver remanufactured and/or reprocessed medical devices as well as comprehensive recycling and redistribution initiatives. Ascent has been recognized as a "Champion for Change" by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (now Practice Greenhealth) in recognition of the dramatic environmental benefits its remanufacturing and reprocessing programs provide to U.S. hospitals and surgery centers. Ascent's more than 1,800 hospital partners include most of the *U.S. News & World Report* "Honor Roll" hospitals. The company has agreements with all leading national group purchasing organizations as well as numerous nationally recognized hospital integrated delivery networks. For more information about Ascent Healthcare Solutions, visit www.ascenths.com

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