



For immediate release

Contact: Chuck Weber
(847) 705-1802, cpweber@weberpr.com

INTERNATIONAL TECHNIDYNE CORPORATION'S *IRMA TRUPOINT* ANALYZER INTEGRATED WITH *RALS-PLUS* IMS SYSTEM

EDISON, NJ, Nov. 15, 2004 — International Technidyne Corp (ITC), a subsidiary of Thoratec Corp. (NASDAQ: THOR), announced today that it has concluded an agreement with Medical Automation Systems, Inc. (MAS) to integrate ITC's *IRMA TRUpoint™* analyzer for point-of-care blood gas monitoring with the widely used *RALS®-Plus* data management system developed and marketed by MAS. Beta testing is scheduled to begin early next year.

RALS-Plus will enable *IRMA TRUpoint* users to automatically manage, report and electronically transfer patient monitoring data for blood gases, electrolytes and blood chemistries to the *RALS-Plus* database and the hospital's laboratory information system.

ITC acquired the *IRMA TRUpoint* product line in Sept. 2003 and has committed to expand research and development and technical support for the system. Integrating with the *RALS-Plus* data management systems is the first of several planned enhancements, according to ITC President Lawrence Cohen.

"Our customers wanted a connectivity solution. The ability to interface the *IRMA* system with the versatile and widely used *RALS-Plus* offers fast, efficient and convenient reporting and transmission of critical care patient testing data," said Cohen. "*IRMA* users in institutions already using *RALS-Plus* data management will now be able to integrate and manage *IRMA TRUpoint* blood gas and electrolyte testing with other point-of-care tests through a single data management system."

"We are pleased to continue our relationship with ITC in linking the *IRMA* blood gas testing system to *RALS-Plus* as we have done for its *HEMOCHRON Signature+* and *Response* blood coagulation testing systems," said MAS Chief Operating Officer Roger Trent.

- more-



The *IRMA TRUpoint* portable analyzer performs immediate, reliable tests at the patient's bedside. It measures pH, blood gases, hematocrit, electrolytes and other chemistries easily in the OR, NICU, ICU, CCU or wherever the patient is located so critical treatment decisions can be made without delay. *IRMA* also has built-in quality control features and a data-management system that can be linked with the central laboratory information systems.

ITC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Thoratec Corp. (NASDAQ: THOR). The company develops, manufactures and markets medical devices used in three distinct segments of the medical field. The HEMOCHRON product line provides point-of-care coagulation monitoring in operating rooms and cardiac catheterization labs. ITC is the technology leader in precision, automated, skin-incision technology and manufactures the *Tenderlett®*, *tenderfoot®* and *Surgicutt®* products for fingerstick, infant heel incision, and bleeding-time measurements. The *ProTime®* microcoagulation system product lines monitor the effect of oral anticoagulation with a simple-to-use instrument for point-of-care professional and patient self testing use.

Further information about ITC and its products can be found at www.itcmed.com.

##