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CardiacAssist Places TandemHeart® PTVA® System at Two New Medical Centers

December 15, 2006, PITTSBURGH – CardiacAssist, Inc. announced that it has placed the TandemHeart® PTVA® System at two new medical centers. More than 75 hospitals across the U.S. and more than 90 worldwide now use the TandemHeart System for extracorporeal circulatory support. The TandemHeart System is used in 17 of the top 20 heart and heart surgery hospitals in the U.S. and 11 of the nation's top 14 hospitals overall.

The two new CardiacAssist Centers of Excellence are:

- Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Ill.
- Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Ill.

CardiacAssist, Inc. is a leader in providing extracorporeal circulatory support by providing the TandemHeart PTVA System to leading critical care centers around the world. The device has received FDA 510(k) clearance for short-term use and is the only FDA approved device of its kind in the U.S.

"We're proud to be associated with these influential hospitals and the forward thinking physicians who use the TandemHeart System for their patients," said Michael Garippa, President and CEO of CardiacAssist.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital is one of 173 hospitals in the United States recognized for implementing quality cardiac care, while Sherman Health Hospital ranks third in volume in Chicagoland for heart procedures.

The TandemHeart System provides circulatory support through a cardiac catheterization procedure in as little as 30 minutes and can provide up to five liters per minute (lpm) of blood flow.

The TandemHeart is fully reimbursed by Medicare under existing DRG codes. The device can be placed rapidly in the cath lab or operating room, providing reliable, temporary extracorporeal circulatory support. To date, nearly 800 uses of the system in 28 countries at 90 different facilities by 120 different physicians have been performed.

About CardiacAssist

Founded in 1996, CardiacAssist, Inc. is a privately held, Pittsburgh-based medical device company that develops, manufactures and markets innovative products designed to provide cardiologists and cardiac surgeons with minimally invasive solutions for providing extracorporeal circulatory support. Its vision is to help advance the treatment of heart disease by bridging gaps in current treatment methodologies.

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