

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Machine Solutions Inc. Announces the Launch of New Testing Product – Radial Expansion Force Equipment

Flagstaff, AZ USA, March 15, 2004 - Machine Solutions Inc.:

The RX500 Radial Expansion Force Gage equipment from Machine Solutions Inc. (MSI) is designed to measure the hoop force of both balloon expandable and self-expanding stent and stent graft products during expansion and compression. At the core of the RX500 equipment is the MSI proprietary segmental compression mechanism controlled by a micro-stepping linear actuator that is specifically designed to provide an extremely low friction testing environment.

Hoop force is the outward force that originates at the center of a tube and is equal in all directions. In the case of balloon expandable stents, it is the force that the stent exerts on a blood vessel. In the case of self-expanding stents, it is the force that the stent is applying while it expands. If a stent product does not produce enough outward force on the vessel it may slip within the vessel, provide a path for leakage, or collapse under the pressure of the vessel. The FDA requires that some form of a hoop force test is done on all stents prior to approval.

The MSI RX500 equipment is software controlled utilizing an interchangeable linear force transducer to maintain resolution at force levels from 0 to 80 Newtons. The RX500 equipment will measure the hysteresis, hoop strength, and creep of the product which can be visualized and recorded as the product is cycled through programmed open and close diameters.

Advantages over current expansion force measurement techniques:

- Decreased set up time, low maintenance
- Simplified data acquisition
- Increased accuracy and resolution
- Head can be completely encapsulated in a temperature chamber
- Easily calibrated

Machine Solutions Inc. (MSI) is a leading manufacturer and pioneer in providing the medical device community with the premier solution for catheter processing and testing applications. MSI has been instrumental in automating or semi-automating several manual processes within catheter manufacturing organizations. Please visit www.machinesolutions.org for additional corporate and MSI product information.



Machine Solutions Inc.

2901 West Shamrell Boulevard Suite 101, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 USA

Tel: 928-556-3109 | Fax: 928-556-3084

Email: info@machinesolutions.org | URL: www.machinesolutions.org