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**MICROLINE SURGICAL NAMED APICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR**

*Company honored for its commitment to employee continuing education*

**Beverly, Mass. – June 15, 2010** – Microline Surgical, a leading manufacturer of reusable instruments for minimally invasive surgery, has been named 2010 Company of the Year by the North Shore chapter of The Association for Operations Management (APICS) for its commitment to employee continuing education.

APICS is the global leader and premier source of the body of knowledge in operations management, including production, inventory, supply chain, materials management, purchasing, and logistics. Each year, the board of APICS North Shore reviews award candidates, who are typically member companies, and selects a Company of the Year based on the winner's investment in employee education.

According to Adrienne Galbraith, communications director for APICS North Shore, the organization chose Microline Surgical as this year's winner because it is actively engaged in providing its employees with opportunities for continuing education, having secured a grant from the Massachusetts Workforce Training Program to fund APICS training, hosting classes and supplying a venue that is convenient to its employees.

"By investing in its employees' education, Microline benefits not only itself and its employees, but our local economy as well," said Galbraith. "A highly skilled and highly trained workforce enables business to succeed here in New England and makes it less likely that they will relocate someplace else."

At Microline Surgical, 15 employees are currently enrolled in APICS Certification in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) training. The CPIM program helps manufacturing professionals increase their functional knowledge, improve efficiency

across an organization's supply chain and streamline company operations.

"Microline Surgical is honored to receive the award from the North Shore chapter of APICS," said Brian Murray, senior director of operations, Microline Surgical. "We are proud to be manufacturing medical device products here in Beverly, Massachusetts and are striving to maintain that ability. The education of employees and the willingness to improve our methodology is key in sustaining our company's future growth."

APICS North Shore honored Microline Surgical at an awards ceremony on June 9, 2010 in Salem, Massachusetts.

### **About Microline Surgical**

Headquartered in Beverly, Massachusetts, Microline Surgical, Inc. is a leading U.S. medical device manufacturer of high quality reusable surgical laparoscopic instruments. Founded in 1987, Microline is a wholly owned subsidiary of HOYA Corporation (7741:TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, a \$4.5 billion company with approximately half of its revenues from medical business including endoscopy and eye care. Microline's integrated modular laparoscopic instrumentation system consists of a selection of reusable handpieces that utilize a broad assortment of disposable tips. This concept allows for surgical efficiency and cost effectiveness to be preserved at all times. The company's patented product portfolio comprises cutting, dissecting, grasping, cauterizing and ligating instruments used in all laparoscopic surgical procedures. For more information, visit [www.microlinesurgical.com](http://www.microlinesurgical.com).

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