Recently, Cordis Corporation (Bridgewater, NJ) launched the 2.25-mm version of the Cypher sirolimus-eluting coronary stent, which is the world’s most-studied drug-eluting stent, according to the company. The new 2.25-mm size is indicated for treatment of coronary blockages in small vessels.

This launch is based on the results of four studies, including the clinical results of the SES-SMART trial. This trial was a randomized comparison of the 2.25-mm Cypher stent to bare-metal stents in the reduction of restenosis in small coronary arteries. At 2 years of follow-up, patients receiving the Cypher stent had significantly better clinical outcomes than those receiving a bare-metal stent. The sirolimus-eluting Cypher stent has outperformed paclitaxel-eluting stents in numerous clinical trials in smaller vessels of the coronary arteries that are within the approved Cypher stent range of 2.25 to 3.50 mm. In the ISAR-SMART 3 trial, which randomized patients with small vessels, patients treated with the Cypher stent had 55% less late loss after 8 months than patients receiving a paclitaxel-eluting stent (P = .001).

### Mega Intra-Aortic Balloon Catheter

The Mega (Maquet Cardiovascular, Fairfield, NJ) is the first 50-cc intra-aortic balloon (IAB) catheter on a true 8-F shaft. The product is an ideal choice for patients who are 5’4” and taller; it therefore benefits patients with traditional 50-cc IABs, as well as those with 40-cc IABs. The Mega IAB has a smaller insertion point than traditional 50-cc IABs, which can reduce the risk of adverse effects such as limb ischemia and bleeding at the insertion site. It also delivers 25% more blood volume displacement than 40-cc IABs. According to the company, the Mega IAB provides improved unloading and augmentation compared to 40-cc IABs and can be inserted through an 8-F sheath or inserted without the use of a sheath.
GuideLiner Catheter

The Food and Drug Administration-cleared GuideLiner catheter (Vascular Solutions, Inc., Minneapolis, MN) is a unique coaxial mother-and-child guide extension with rapid-exchange convenience that provides backup support and selective deep intubation in challenging coronary interventions. The GuideLiner catheters are intended to be used in conjunction with guide catheters to access discrete regions of the coronary and/or peripheral vasculature and to facilitate placement and exchange of guidewires and other interventional devices. The GuideLiner catheter will be available in 6-, 7-, and 8-F sizes as part of Vascular Solutions’ specialty catheter product line. According to the company, the GuideLiner’s highly flexible rapid-exchange guide catheter section allows physicians to use standard-length guidewires, balloons, or stents through an existing hemostatic valve. The GuideLiner is compatible with standard guide catheters regardless of tip shape and results in an inner diameter approximately 1-F size smaller than the guide catheter.

SoloPath Transfemoral Introducer Sheath

The FDA-cleared SoloPath TransFemoral access sheaths (Onset Medical Corporation, Irvine, CA) are for large-bore applications such as percutaneous aortic valve placement, mitral valve placement, and abdominal aortic and thoracic aortic aneurysm graft placement. According to the company, the sheaths are unique in that they are expandable, which allows the operator to introduce, navigate, and deploy where other sheaths cannot. The sheath enters the body at approximately half the size of its full diameter. It is pliable enough to track over a guidewire through tortuous anatomy. Once in position, the sheath is radially expanded to maximum conduit capacity or Controlled Deployment Technology. Controlled Deployment Technology remodels tissue and vasculature to provide unrestricted access for large-bore applications. President and CEO Joe Bishop shared that “SoloPath is an enabling platform in that it can establish a repeatable and predictable method of access where other devices cannot, as well as, potentially reduce the patient contraindications while enabling a larger patient population. Our devices are distinctly unique and virtually kink resistant.”
Boston Scientific Corporation (Natick, MA) recently announced CE Mark approval for its third-generation drug-eluting stent (DES), Promus Element. Promus Element is an everolimus-eluting coronary stent system, which incorporates a platinum chromium alloy with a new, innovative stent design and an advanced catheter delivery system. The platinum chromium alloy used in the Promus Element stent is engineered specifically for coronary stenting. This proprietary alloy offers greater radial strength and flexibility and radiopacity than older alloys. According to the company, the innovative design of the Promus Element stent is engineered for more consistent lesion coverage and drug distribution. In the United States, the Promus Element stent is an investigational device limited by applicable law to investigational use only and is not available for sale.

**Promus Element Stent System**

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<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>Boston Scientific Corporation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHONE</td>
<td>(888) 272-1001</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEB</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bostonscientific.com">www.bostonscientific.com</a></td>
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**KEY FEATURES**

- Third-generation drug-eluting stent technology
- Unique platinum chromium alloy and new, innovative Element stent design and delivery system
- Thin-strut stent platform (0.0032 inch)

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