Navilyst Medical (Marlborough, MA) recently announced it has expanded its offering of customized peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) Convenience Kits. The enhanced PICC Convenience Kits allow for complete customization for patient preparation, venous access, line placement, and catheter securement, which enable clinicians to meet the 2009 Joint Commission requirements. Recent PICC Convenience Kit enhancements of interest to interventional radiologists include new Xcela PICC with Pressure-Activated Safety Valve (PASV) technology, the new 3-F Vaxcel PICC with PASV technology, and the 80- or 100-cm length Hydro-Sil–coated nitinol wire. According to the company, the expanded Convenience Kits can be designed to streamline PICC placement procedures, which can improve clinician efficiency and productivity, resulting in reduced overall costs.

Vascular Solutions, Inc. (Minneapolis, MN) recently launched the VSI Tru-Torque line of guidewires, a complete line of highly torqueable 0.035-inch guidewires that facilitate catheter placement during diagnostic angiography and interventional procedures. The VSI Tru-Torque guidewires feature an excellent torque response for steerability, PTFE coating for enhanced device tracking, and radiopaque tip for enhanced visibility. Each VSI Tru-Torque guidewire comes packaged with a torque device. The VSI Tru-Torque guidewires can be accurately controlled to facilitate navigation through tortuous vessels and adjoining side branches, the company stated. They are available in standard, floppy, and modified J-tip configurations and are currently available in the United States.
Vascular Solutions, Inc. (Minneapolis, MN) recently launched the Amplatz SST line of 0.035- and 0.038-inch guidewires designed for extra support during catheter placement in diagnostic angiography and interventional procedures.

Amplatz SST guidewires have an inner-core construction that provides added strength for increased support, a radiopaque tip for enhanced visibility, and a PTFE coating for enhanced device tracking, the company stated. The Amplatz SST guidewire is available in straight and modified J configurations and in 0.035- and 0.038-inch diameters. Amplatz SST guidewires are currently available in the United States.

Spectranetics Corporation (Colorado Springs, CO) reported that it has received clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the Turbo-Tandem, a single-use, disposable device indicated for atherectomy of infrainguinal arteries. CE Mark approval is also in place for marketing within the European Union and was received last month. The Turbo-Tandem System is comprised of two integrated devices—a 7-F laser guide catheter and a 2-mm excimer laser ablation catheter. The Turbo-Tandem is designed to perform atherectomy and ablation of plaque in arterial lesions above the knee, primarily within the superficial femoral and popliteal arteries, restoring blood flow to the lower extremities. The angled ramp at the tip of the guide catheter allows the physician circumferential guidance and positioning of the laser catheter within the vessel, and a spring loaded handle greatly simplifies use of the Turbo-Tandem for repeated passes through the vessel. Emile J. Geisenheimer, the company’s chairman, president, and chief executive officer, commented, “I am pleased to receive FDA clearance of the Turbo-Tandem system earlier than expected. Approximately two-thirds of all atherectomy procedures in the leg are performed above the knee, and we look forward to targeting this important segment of the peripheral atherectomy market, which we believe is in excess of $150 million annually.”
**Relay Plus**

Bolton Medical (Sunrise, FL) recently announced the launch of a new and further improved delivery system: Relay Plus. The new delivery system is designed for use with the Relay Thoracic Stent Graft. According to the company, the hydrophilic coating on the outer sheath and tip allows for easier introduction and advancement through the aorta. The 60-cm braided outer sheath with enhanced radiopacity and reinforced pushrod provides improved pushability and visibility in challenging aortic anatomies. The new nitinol inner catheter provides improved self-alignment of the dual-sheath system. Relay Plus received CE Mark in March 2009 and is available in Europe and all countries that recognize CE Mark certification. It will be marketed along with the Relay Thoracic Stent Graft, which was launched in Europe in 2005 and is well underway in clinical trials in the United States.

Relay and Relay NBS endovascular stent grafts are indicated for the treatment of main thoracic aortic pathologies, such as aneurysms, dissections, penetrating ulcers, pseudoaneurysms, and intramural hematoma in adult patients.

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**Hi-Torque Versacore 0.035 Guidewire**

The Hi-Torque Versacore peripheral guidewire (Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA) is designed for routine diagnostic procedures and device delivery in interventions. Versacore features a soft, shapeable tip to provide safe access to peripheral lesions and enhanced visibility under fluoroscopy. Versacore also offers excellent torque response, enabling the wire to move consistently and easily around the bends of a patient’s vascular system, even when accessing the hardest-to-reach lesions, the company stated.

“The Versacore guidewire is an ideal wire because it offers excellent support, navigates difficult anatomy easily, saves time with device exchanges and simplifies the procedure. Versacore is now my workhorse wire for both diagnostic and interventional peripheral procedures,” said Prakash Krishnan, MD, assistant professor of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and director of Endovascular Intervention, Mount Sinai Medical Center, in New York, New York.

The Hi-Torque Versacore 0.035-inch guidewire is a peripheral guidewire for delivery of catheters, balloons, and stents and is now available in the United States.