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NEWS ALERT UPDATE

Medical Device Problems Associated with Solid State Magnetic Switch Technology

22 July 2005, Chickasha, OK (USA) - Several models of a medical device recently experienced a problem with a sticking magnetic switch. It is important to note that there are several types of magnetic switches on the market, and that the magnetic switch that failed was not a reed switch.

Hermetic Switch, Inc. currently manufactures several types of magnetic switches and sensors used in implantable medical devices. The newest sensor available for medical and commercial applications is an overmolded HSR-0025 (the world's smallest reed switch). Hermetic's new sensor brings improved operational characteristics and proven technology with a 30-year history of established, well-documented performance and reliability in critical applications.

Magnetic switches come in various types and technologies (mechanical and solid state). The most common types being used in the medical field are known as: (1) Electro-Mechanical, which are best represented by Reed Switches; and (2) MEMS (*MicroElectroMechanicalSystems*) 3) Hall Technologies; and 4) GMR (*Giant Magnetoresistance*; also known as *Spintronic* sensors).

Unlike the Reed Switch, some solid-state switches consume power even when "off". Such power consumption shortens the battery life. The Reed Switch requires no power to operate, is not sensitive to ESD (Electrostatic Discharge), is hermetically sealed, has a proven track record, and is comparable in size to many solid-state devices on the market. Although Reed Switch technology is mature, its unique characteristics make it the ideal solution for critical applications within aerospace, medical, hearing aid and other industries.

For more information contact Hermetic Switch at (405) 224-4046, or go to www.hermeticswitch.com.

Hermetic Switch (est.1968) is a privately held, ISO-9001:2000 certified company that designs, develops and manufactures reed switches, proximity sensors and other switch technologies that respond to customer needs. The company provides switching and sensing solutions to many industries including medical, aerospace, telecommunications, military, fluid processing, computer/electronic, construction, security, agricultural and lawn/garden/turf. Specific applications where Hermetic products are used include pacemakers, defibrillators, Vagus nerve stimulators, hearing aids, space station/space shuttle functions, commercial and military jet engines, wireless devices, valve-position monitoring devices, test, measurement and diagnostic equipment (TMDE), burglar alarms, commercial lawn mowers and countless others. Customers include numerous Fortune 500 companies as well as other key players in the global marketplace. For more information call 405-224-4046 or go to hermeticswitch.com.