



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Tipping Equipment Innovation Introduces New Level of Versatility for Catheter R&D and Manufacturing**

*Catheter Manufacturing Equipment Supplier Develops Auto-Tipping System For Use With Glass or Metal Dies.*

**LOS GATOS, CA** – (October, 2002) Beahm Designs, a leading supplier of catheter manufacturing equipment, today announced the first release of the Auto-Tipper™, the only tipping system available today capable of operating with glass or metallic molds.

Catheters are typically manufactured using a multi-step process, and the number of stages in product development varies depending on the degree of product complexity. Tipping is often the final step in the process as the catheter is refined to pass more easily through the vasculature.

The unique design of the Auto-Tipper provides device manufacturers with a cost-effective alternative to RF tipping by using air to heat and cool the catheter tipping die. The process begins when catheter tubing is automatically inserted into either a glass or metallic die. A focused stream of high temperature air heats the die forming the tip. Compressed air then cools the die and the tip formed tubing is released.

#### ***The Option to Tip with Glass or Metallic Dies Provides Easy Transition from R&D to Manufacturing***

Many tipping processes are prototyped using glass dies, but, for lack of a manufactured system typically move to metallic molds and alternative heating methods. Until now, catheter manufacturers have been dependant upon metallic dies to create catheter tips. Because the Auto-Tipper works with both glass and metallic dies, engineers can continue to work with and build upon the initial design prototype and process.

#### ***Additional User Benefits***

In addition to the economical benefits of an air heated and cooled system, glass dies are an economical alternative to metallic, and offer engineers the opportunity to actually see the formation of tips providing a greater level of accuracy. Because the Auto-Tipper uses air to cool the die, it eliminates the bio-burden and maintenance issues associated with the water-cooled systems. In addition, the modular design of the Auto-Tipper can be retrofitted to existing Beahm Designs hot air stations, further enhancing the systems' versatility.

#### ***Seeking to Provide Engineering Options***

According to Beahm Designs Principal and Chief Technology Officer Brian Beahm, "We designed the Auto-Tipper based upon input from our customers and business partners. Research and development teams needed an easy-to-use and flexible system, and our challenge was to create that system as an off-the-shelf, highly reliable product."

The Auto-Tipper creates closed or open catheter tips and can simultaneously attach, weld and form soft tips. The Auto-Tipper can produce virtually any tip geometry on a wide range of catheter sizes and styles, and is equipped with quick change tooling for multiple catheter sizes.

The modular design makes this equipment uniquely suitable for both R&D and manufacturing environments. The results are precise, uniform, and as smooth as glass, making the Auto-Tipper the most versatile and cost-effective solution available today.

**About Beahm Designs**

Beahm Designs, located in Los Gatos, California, is an industry leader in supplying national and global catheter manufacturers with premier manufacturing equipment. From custom equipment to a complete line of catheter manufacturing systems, Beahm Designs equipment provides solutions for improved catheter productivity, repeatability and ease of use.

For more information, contact:

Anita Beahm  
Vice President, Marketing  
Beahm Designs  
112 Elmwood Court  
Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Tel: (408) 489-1396  
Fax: (408) 378-9537  
[anita@beahmdesigns.com](mailto:anita@beahmdesigns.com)