

**January 17, 2002**

**City of Los Angeles and Philips Medical Systems Launch One of Nation's  
Most Comprehensive Public Access Defibrillation Programs to Protect Health  
and Safety of Citizens, Visitors**

*Nation's Second Largest City Partners with Residents in New Program to Help Prevent  
Death from Sudden Cardiac Arrest*

**LOS ANGELES, Calif. January 17, 2002** The City of Los Angeles announced today a city-wide public access defibrillation program to protect residents, workers and visitors from death by sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), which claims 220,000 lives annually in the U.S. Los Angeles has deployed Philips Medical Systems' Heartstream FR2 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public locations throughout the City. The Los Angeles Fire Department has trained city employees to use the devices, ensuring that life-saving defibrillators and a trained responder are just minutes away from a victim of sudden cardiac arrest.

SCA can strike anyone, anywhere and at any time, often without warning. A clear and highly effective treatment for SCA exists-early defibrillation. Yet, less than 5% of SCA victims survive largely because defibrillators do not reach them in time. Defibrillation must be delivered within minutes for survival. The American Heart Association estimates that nearly 40,000 lives could be saved each year if defibrillators were widely available in public locations.

The City of Los Angeles' public access defibrillation program effectively unites emergency medical services, local government, the private sector and, most importantly, the citizens of Los Angeles in the goal of improving survival from sudden cardiac arrest.

Los Angeles' broad AED deployment strategy ensures that trained city workers, private sector employees and citizens can access life-saving AED technology at the city's most-frequented buildings and tourist destinations, including city hall, parks and recreation facilities, the convention center, the city's airports and the zoo. The city council has provided the funding for the program.

"The City of Los Angeles is now among the nation's most heart-safe communities," said Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn. "Our early defibrillation program provides the highest standard of care for our city's citizens and visitors in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. Our goal is to ensure that life-saving defibrillation is close to potential victims regardless of where they are in our city."

"Los Angeles is among the nation's leading cities that have created bold, far-reaching programs to improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest," said Deborah DiSanzo, vice president and general manager for cardiac resuscitation at Philips Medical Systems. "The city's organized, coordinated approach to prevent death from sudden cardiac arrest is the most effective way to save lives. We applaud the city's vision for endeavoring to protect its citizens and visitors."

"The American Heart Association is proud to have assisted the City of Los Angeles in implementing this program," said David S. Cannom, M.D., Chairman of the Association's Operation Heartbeat program and Director of Cardiology at Good Samaritan Hospital. "As heart disease is still the leading killer of Americans, our next goal is to encourage the city's residents to join in this life-saving effort by learning to recognize the signs of heart attack and cardiac arrest, learn CPR and how to use an AED."

The city's vision for the program includes an additional 200 AEDs designated for public locations such as harbor facilities and boats, public libraries and pools. The Los Angeles Unified School District will also place AEDs throughout their schools. Ultimately, thousands of city

employees and the citizens of Los Angeles will have the opportunity to receive AED training so that anyone can save a life.

***About Philips Medical Systems:***

*With the recent acquisitions of Marconi Medical Systems, Agilent's Healthcare Solutions Group, ADAC Laboratories and ATL Ultrasound, Philips Medical Systems is firmly established as the global number one or two player in most of its markets and businesses. Philips' portfolio includes x-ray, ultrasound, magnetic resonance, computed tomography, nuclear medicine and PET, patient monitoring, information management and resuscitation products, as well as a range of services that include asset management, training and education, business consultancy, financial services and e-care business services.*

*Philips Medical Systems has annual sales of US\$ 6.5 billion, is represented in more than 100 countries and employs over 22,000 people. All products are backed by Philips' worldwide network of research and development and sales and service organizations. Philips Medical Systems is part of Royal Philips Electronics, one of the world's largest electronics companies. Additional information can be found at [www.medical.philips.com](http://www.medical.philips.com)*

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