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PRESS RELEASE

GE HEALTHCARE PROVIDES PORTABLE CARDIAC ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIES TO THE 12th IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ATHLETICS, HOSTED IN BERLIN, August 15-23, 2009.

EARLIER AND FASTER HEART DIAGNOSIS IN REAL-TIME FOR ALL COMPETING ATHLETES

- Six GE Healthcare cardiac ultrasound technologies, the *Vivid i*, to be located at four different venues during the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin
- Berlin will host some 2,000 athletes from over 200 countries during one week, Aug 15-23, 2009
- Cardiac ultrasound provides detailed images of the heart, allowing to identify specific injuries, an important prerequisite in helping design individual training plans. Early diagnosis is critical to the recovery of athletes

BERLIN, GERMANY, AUGUST 17, 2009 – GE Healthcare, the US\$17 billion healthcare business of General Electric Company (GE), today announced supplying six portable, laptop sized cardiovascular ultrasound systems, known as the *Vivid i*, on site during the 12th IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin. These advanced medical technologies will be available for use on some 2,000 elite athletes from over 200 countries, ensuring emergency and non-emergency healthcare access for the competing athletes.

For any elite athlete, the distinction between “athlete's heart” (non-pathological changes in cardiac morphology associated with training) and cardiac disease is critical. The identification of cardiovascular disease in an athlete may be the basis for disqualification from competition. However, the improper diagnosis of cardiac disease in any athlete may lead to their unnecessary withdrawal from athletics.

During the seven days of competition in Berlin (Aug 15 - 23, 2009), GE Healthcare's six *Vivid i* systems will be located at four different venues across the city (three at the Olympic Stadium; one at the Brandenburg Gate, at the Intensive care station at the finishing line, one at the Hotel Estrel, and one at the Hotel Berlin, where around 1,500 athletes will be staying). The technology will facilitate access to medical care before, during and after competition, at all competition sites across the city. Such cardiac



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ultrasound systems make it possible for patients to receive full diagnostic exams in-situ, as opposed to being transported to an imaging lab in a hospital.

“With the objective of winning a gold medal, athletes train very hard, therefore a potential risk of injury can result at any time. It is a general assumption to think well-trained athletes must also have healthy hearts and yet despite their rigor we unfortunately hear of athletes suffering from Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). During August, the heat can also put a further burden on the circulatory system, especially for long-distance and marathon runners, therefore in Berlin we want to help ensure maximum athlete safety by having at hand advanced medical imaging tools that will allow clinicians to predict, diagnose, treat and monitor sports injuries early on and in turn, help ensure a quicker return to play”, explains Assistant Professor Dr. Matthias Krüll, Vice-Medical Director to the 12th IAAF World Athletics Championships 2009 in Berlin, Specialist in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases at the Center of Excellence for Sports Medicine in Berlin.

When diagnosing the heart, timing is critical. GE Healthcare’s Vivid i, is helping to transform the way heart disease is detected, diagnosed and managed around the world. The Vivid i offers the functionality, outstanding image quality and high performance of larger-scale systems. In addition, its wireless design and portability makes it easier for clinicians to carry out an earlier, complete diagnosis in real time, anywhere so that necessary steps are taken for athletes care management.

“In recent years, GE Healthcare technologies have made an important contribution towards the diagnosis of sports injuries. Clinicians have made decisions earlier on, of whether an athlete can still participate in the championship or not, but above all we have provided clinicians with a diagnostic tool that will help them tailor training programs to best meet their needs and ensure athlete safety,” explains Dr. Rolf Lucas, President & CEO GE Healthcare in Germany. “Our ongoing support of international events such as the Olympic Games and now at the IAAF World Championship in Athletics, demonstrates our strong commitment to sports medicine. Not only by having our technologies on site during the sporting events such as the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games and Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, but also, as part of our support towards clinical research studies with some customers who use our technologies on



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elite athletes, objective being for the findings to lead clinicians towards new ways of assessing and treating heart disease for the general public.” concluded Dr. Lucas.

Note to Editor

GE Healthcare's Vivid i is primarily used for diagnosing cardiovascular diseases however it also supports other applications (probe dependent); vascular, pediatric (general), neonatal cephalic, transcranial (adult cephalic), abdomen, musculoskeletal, small parts, breast, nerve imaging, and intraoperative.

About GE Healthcare

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies and services that are shaping a new age of patient care. Our broad expertise in medical imaging and information technology, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring systems, drug discovery, biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies, performance improvement and performance solutions services help our customers to deliver better care to more people around the world at a lower cost. In addition, we partner with healthcare leaders, striving to leverage the global policy change necessary to implement a successful shift to sustainable healthcare systems.

Our "healthymagination" vision for the future invites the world to join us on our journey as we continuously develop innovations focused on reducing costs, increasing access and improving quality and efficiency around the world. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, GE Healthcare is a \$17 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE). Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 46,000 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit our website at www.gehealthcare.com

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