#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, DC 20549

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#### FORM 8-K

#### CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

February 21, 2023 Date of Report (date of earliest event reported)

#### Asensus Surgical, Inc. (Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 0-19437 (Commission File Number) 11-2962080 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

1 TW Alexander Drive, Suite 160 Durham, NC 27703 (Address of principal executive offices) 919-765-8400 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

□ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

□ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

□ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading symbol	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	ASXC	NYSE American
\$0.001 par value per share		

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company  $\Box$ 

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

#### Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On February 21, 2023, Asensus Surgical, Inc. (the "Company") is hosting an Investor Day to provide a corporate update to investors. The Company notified investors of the date of the Investor Day via press release issued on January 30, 2023. The information provided during such Investor Date is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K.

The information in this Item 7.01 and the Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

#### Item 8.01 Other Events.

The Company issued a press release just prior to hosting its Investor Day on February 21, 2023. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.2 to this Form 8-K.

Item 9	.01 Financi	al Statements and Exhibits.
(d)	Exhibit	
	Exhibit No.	Description
	99.1	Corporate Presentation of Asensus Surgical, Inc. February 21, 2023
	99.2	Press Release of Asensus Surgical, Inc., dated February 21, 2023
	104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted in inline XBRL)

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: February 21, 2023

#### ASENSUS SURGICAL, INC.

/s/ Shameze Rampertab Shameze Rampertab Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer





# Surgery Reimagined

Investor Day February 2023



PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Anthony Fernando



### **Forward-Looking Statements Disclosure**

This presentation includes statements relating to the LUNA<sup>™</sup> Surgical System next-generation program under development and an update on Asensus' strategic plan. These statements and other statements regarding our future plans and goals constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and are intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that are often difficult to predict, are beyond our control, and which may cause results to differ materially from expectations. Factors that could cause our results to differ materially from those described include, but are not limited to, whether we can successfully advance our Performance-Guided Surgery" initiative, the risks and uncertainties related to our ability to successfully advance our LUNA System program through

development, testing and regulatory approval on the timeline provided, or at all, the risk that we will not be able to successfully enter into definitive agreements with our collaborators, that the pace of adoption of our products by surgeons will increase, the success and market opportunity of our products, including the ISU and LUNA System, the effect on our business of existing and new regulatory requirements, and other economic and competitive factors. For a discussion of the risks and uncertainties associated with the Company's business, please review our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which are based on our expectations as of the date of this presentation and speak only as of the origination date of this presentation. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

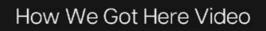


### Agenda

- Welcome and overview
   Anthony Fernando, President & Chief Executive Officer
- Surgical robotics market
   Ethan Loiselle, Vice President, Global Marketing
- Performance-Guided Surgery Building the future of surgery Next Generation Digital Surgery Platform – Dustin Vaughan, Vice President, R&D, Robotics KARL STORZ Partnership – Stephan Abele, Managing Director, KARL STORZ Venture ONE Intra-operative Clinical Guidance – Motti Frimer, Vice President, R&D, Digital Solutions Asensus Cloud – Brian Stellmach, Vice President, Digital Solutions
- Roadmap & Milestones
   Anthony Fernando, President & Chief Executive Officer
- Surgeon panel
   Dr. Amit Trivedi, Dr. Bernhard Kramer
   Moderator: Dr. Ed Chekan, Vice President, Medical Affairs & Professional Education
- Q&A
- Product demo and reception



The WHAT		The HOW
AT	WE BELIEVE	ONE Global Team
SURGICAL	Digitizing the interface between surgeon and patient enables Performance-Guided Surgery to consistently deliver superior outcomes and a new standard of care.	Innovate with Passion
WE	WE	Focused Execution
UNDERSTAND	DESIGN	
Hospitals and surgeons are under intense pressure to drive consistently excellent outcomes while optimizing resources.	Solutions and technology platforms to enhance surgeon capabilities, improve the surgical experience, and support hospital systems with innovative healthcare strategies.	Drive High Engagement



### Who We Are



Akihisa Akao General Manager, Japan



Ethan Loiselle VP, Global Marketing



Shameze Rampertab Executive VP & Chief Financial Officer





Dr. Ed Chekan VP, Medical Affairs & Professional Education



Wesley Long VP, Customer Excellence



Brian Stellmach VP, Digital Solutions



Wouter Donders VP & GM, Europe



Ken Nicolosi Director, US Sales & Clinical Operations



Nicholas Summitt Senior Director, Strategy & Development



Motti Frimer VP, R&D, Digital Solutions



Daniel Odermatt VP, Upstream Marketing



Johan van Doremalen VP, Europe Sales



Kathleen Frost VP, Intellectual Property



Amanda Owens VP, People



Dustin Vaughan VP, R&D, Robotics



Ravi Kommineni Head of Global Quality & Regulatory



Daniel Potts VP, Asia Pacific



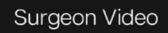
Joshua Weingard Chief Legal Officer

### We Are Pioneering the Future of Surgery

10,000+ Procedures	100+ Surgeons	2,300+ Patient Registry
300+	Global	80+
Patents <sup>1</sup>	Regulatory Approvals	Publications



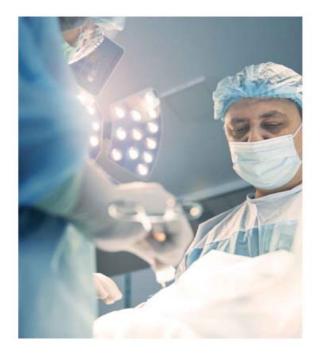
1. Includes, globally issued plus pending applications



VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL MARKETING

## **Ethan Loiselle**





### The State of Surgery

- Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) is the gold standard, yet penetration is less than 50% and outcomes continue to vary<sup>1,2</sup>
- Robotics as an enabling technology remain under penetrated globally (~6%) despite two decades of developments



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### Next Level Thinking for Next Level Outcomes

#### **Digital Surgery**

Improving outcomes by reducing variability

Digital tools to increase safety, predictability & consistency

### Minimally Invasive Surgery

Improving outcomes by reducing invasiveness

Vision systems & mechanical tools for intracorporeal dexterity

#### **Open Surgery**

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ROBOTIC SURGERY

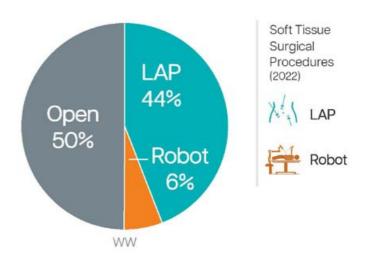
### **MIS: The Gold Standard**

• 44% WW soft tissue procedures are Soft Tissue performed laparoscopically<sup>1</sup> Surgical Procedures · Laparoscopy is better... (2022) - Shorter length of stay LAP X LAP - Reduced pain Other 44% - Better outcomes 56% ...but makes up less than 1/2 of procedures Increased complexity Reduced access WW

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### **Robotics Incremental Change**

- Robotic Surgery today is ~6% of market<sup>1</sup>
- Incremental improvement vs. traditional laparoscopy
- · Current Robotics adds challenges:
  - Higher learning curve
  - Cost per procedure
  - Surgeon disconnected from the OR
- Traditional Robotics has had little impact on patient outcomes vs. Laparoscopy



Contract / OPS lag a record contract of the second contract of

### Variability Can Be Reduced

#### Surgical Variability Impact Patients

- 1 in 5 surgical procedures result in a complication that impacts the patient.<sup>1</sup>
- The volume of surgeries performed can have a direct correlation to patient outcomes.<sup>2,3</sup>
- **Complication rates** vary by procedure and surgeon, leading to unpredictable financial burdens for hospitals.<sup>4,5</sup>





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### What We've Learned



Listening to surgeons and surgical staff 10+ years.



Observing challenges in the OR through 10+ thousand procedures.

- There is a need for tools that inform surgical decisions and enhance cognitive abilities in the OR.
- Surgical technology should promote collaboration, productivity and career longevity.



Gaining a global perspective across 10+ geographies.

- Robotic Surgery platforms must become far more accessible, i.e. easier to obtain, use and learn.
- Operational cost barriers can be addressed to make Robotics broadly available.



### There are Missing Pieces in the OR



#### Patients

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D G T C

- · Predictable outcome
- Fast recovery, with less pain
- Rapid return to normal activity



Surgeons

- Complete less invasive instruments
- Robotic precision and control
- Real-time decision support tools
- Connection to OR
- Productive and fulfilling career



**OR Staff** 

- Easy setup / stay on schedule
- Simple instrument
   exchange
- Full patient access
- Interactive
   communication
- Standardization to familiar tools and supplies



#### Hospital

- Lower cost per procedure
- Reduced complications
- Performance metrics and dashboards
- Standardization

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## The Next Evolution of Surgery



### **Digitizing Surgery**

Moving from an Analog to a Digital World

#### Robotics .....

**Best in Class Robotics** PHYSICAL ADVANTAGE

- · System versatility & footprint
- · Full suite of surgical tools & partners
- · Smallest 5mm wristed Instruments



#### Surgical Assistance COGNITIVE ADVANTAGE

- · Surgeon-driven and autonomous visualization
- · Haptic feedback to "feel" the surgery

#### Machine Vision & Augmented Intelligence

Clinical Intelligence

- · Structural identification & no-fly zones
- Intra-operative guidance
- Procedural steps based on past surgeries
- Training and education of surgeons







## Meet LUNA<sup>™</sup>

The Next Generation of Digital Surgery

LUNA Sizzle Video

VICE PRESIDENT, R&D, ROBOTICS

## **Dustin Vaughan**

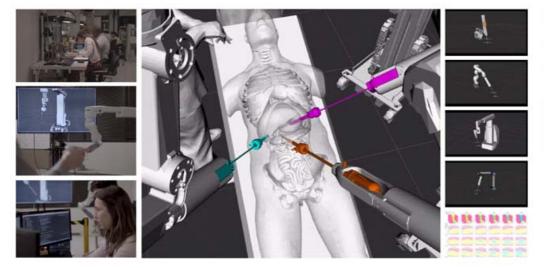


### LUNA System Overview



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### **Building LUNA**



- Senhance experience
- System architecture
- Leveraging global relationships
- Design for Excellence
- Regulatory mentality





### **Manipulator Arm**



### Instruments • TrueWrist" fully articulated 5mm instruments line · Passive, Monopolar and Bipolar offerings · Reusable • Standard minimally invasive 3mm and 5mm trocars · Continued development and manufacturing by KARL STORZ AR Size Matters 8mm 3mm 5mm Area: Area: Area: 50.2mm<sup>2</sup> 19.6mm<sup>2</sup> 7mm<sup>2</sup>

ASENSUS

GICA



### KARL STORZ Collaboration

- Industry-leading imaging solutions
- Next-generation instrumentation
- Commercial scale



Managing Director, KARL STORZ VENTURE ONE

# **Stephan Abele**





### Facts and figures at a glance



### The world is our home

OHeadquarters • Sales & Marketing • Manufacturing • Training Centers



### Hospitals worldwide value technologies from KARL STORZ

Leading Hospitals and healthcare partners worldwide rely on our innovations.



# High-end operating rooms from KARL STORZ

#### OR1<sup>™</sup> – Integrated operating room

- · Integration of the OR into the hospital IT infrastructure
- Central control of the integration system for medical equipment
   and room functions



### SCENARA® – The modular software platform

- · Modular, expandable and cybersafe application platform
- · Supports pre-, intra-, and postoperative processes
- Expanded documentation chain thanks to simple and safe access to endoscopic videos – at any time and any place also on mobile devices





### Optimal imaging makes the difference in robotic surgery

- Surgeons around the globe have relied on KARL STORZ imaging in their daily practice for decades.
- The 3D-4K video endoscope TIPCAM®1 Rubina<sup>™</sup> fits perfectly for robotic surgery
- Robotic surgery benefits from outstanding image quality and excellent depth perception.
- NIR/ICG enables visualization of anatomical structures beyond what the human eye can see



# Venture One



VICE PRESIDENT, R&D, DIGIAL SOLUTIONS

## Motti Frimer



### **Some Definitions**

### Artificial Intelligence

The ability of machines to do things that usually require human cognition, such as learning, problemsolving and decisionmaking.

### Augmented Intelligence

The use of technology to enhance human intelligence, rather than replacing it.

#### Intraoperative Clinical Intelligence

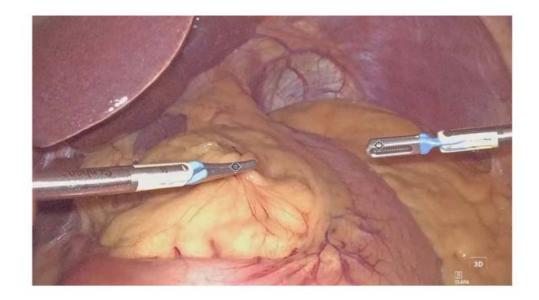




### The Asensus Intelligent Surgical Unit<sup>™</sup> (ISU<sup>™</sup>)



### **Camera Control and Manipulation**





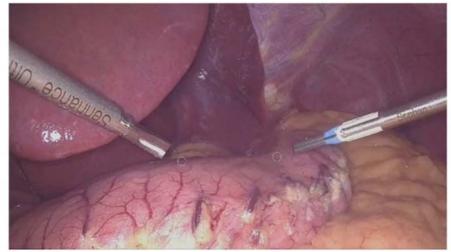
# **Digital Tags**





### **3D Digital Measurement**







### Evolution of the ISU

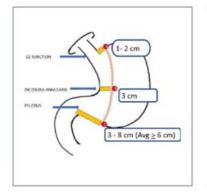


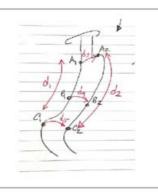
### **Analytical Tools Example**

### **3D Measurement**

**Gastric Sleeve Procedure** 



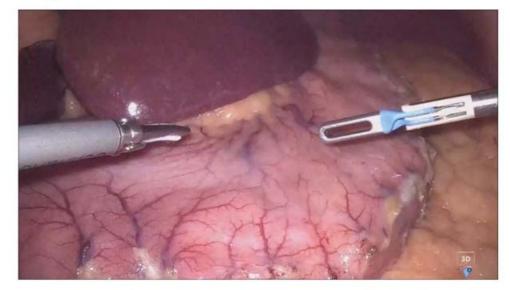






Some features are still in development and the safety or effectiveness of these features have not been established.

# Safety Tool Example Establish 'No-Fly' Zones





Some features are still in development and the safety or effectiveness of these features have not been established.

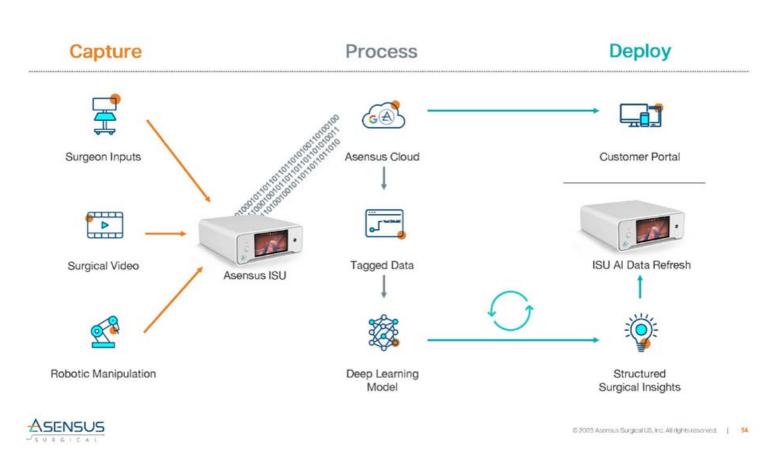
# Training Tool Example Real-time telestration





Some features are still in development and the safety or effectiveness of these features have not been established.





VICE PRESIDENT, DIGIAL SOLUTIONS

## **Brian Stellmach**



### Data & the Asensus Cloud



### Data in the Past

· Nearly zero

### Present

- Infrequent
- Unstructured

### Future

- Massive
- · Actively collected
- High quality
- · Well-organized

### Customized Cloud Solution for Surgical Applications

### **Unique Considerations**

- Huge video files (4K-3D)
- · Privacy & security
- Adaptive scalability in storage, compute, etc.





### Data Automation Enhances Cloud Capabilities

- Democratization of Surgical Data Annotation
- Big Data Enrichment
- Future 3rd Party Integrations





### Data to Insights

Analytics Applications

### Intra-operative

Augmented Intelligence

### Pre & Post Op

- Evaluating performance
- Comparative planning
- · Workflow optimization
- Training, research, etc.





### Cloud Partnerships







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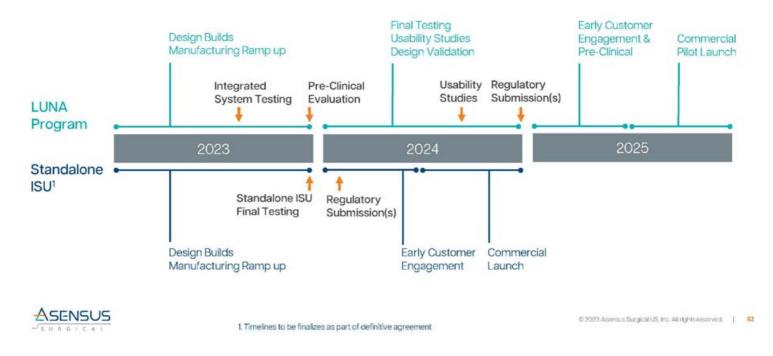
### **Surgery Reimagined**



### **Performance-Guided Surgery**



### **Key Milestones**



### Key Takeaways

- Surgical outcomes can be improved.
- Performance-Guided Surgery is surgery reimagined.
- Asensus is the right company to advance this vision.
- LUNA: Next-generation digital surgery platform and instruments.
- Standalone ISU: Incremental revenue stream.
- Digital surgery is more than just a robot.
- Clear pathway to execute and achieve our vision.



# **Surgeon Panel**

The Next Evolution of Surgery



### SURGEON

Dr. Amit Trivedi Chair, Department of Surgery Pascack Valley Medical Center, New Jersey (US)



### SURGEON

Prof. Bernhard Krämer Deputy Medical Director of Gynecology Tuebingen University Hospital, Tuebingen (Germany)



### MODERATOR Dr. Ed Chekan

VP, Medical Affairs & Professional Education Asensus Surgical



ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE TEAM,

# **Thank You**



#### **Asensus Surgical Provides Corporate Update**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C.--(GLOBE NEWSWIRE)--February 21, 2023-- Asensus Surgical, Inc. (NYSE American: ASXC), a medical device company that is digitizing the interface between the surgeon and the patient to pioneer a new era of Performance-Guided Surgery<sup>TM</sup>, is providing this corporate update in conjunction with its previously announced Investor Day, which will be hosted today, beginning at 11:30am EST.

"Our vision is to revolutionize the way surgery is performed and ultimately the way patients are treated. To date, we have made tremendous progress evolving roboticallyassisted surgery into Digital Laparoscopy with the combination of our Senhance® Surgical System and the intelligent capabilities of our Intelligent Surgical Unit<sup>™</sup>(ISU<sup>™</sup>). However, we expect more from a surgical solution," said Anthony Fernando, President and Chief Executive Officer of Asensus. "We have first hand knowledge, shaped by thousands of real-world procedures and years of interactions with surgeons and hospitals, of what the market needs, which is much more than just a robot. The best solution will materially reduce surgical variability and deliver improved outcomes. We are working to deliver that solution, a new era of surgery called Performance-Guided Surgery, the foundation of which will be our new LUNA<sup>™</sup> Surgical System and the clinical intelligence capabilities provided to surgeons through the ongoing development of the ISU."

Based on its clinical and commercial experience to date, the Company is introducing an integrated Digital Surgery solution comprising a next generation surgical platform and instruments, real-time intraoperative clinical intelligence and a secure cloud platform to apply machine learning to deliver clinical insights. This Digital Surgery solution will enable the Company's vision of Performance-Guided Surgery.

#### LUNA, the Company's Next Generation Digital Surgery Platform

Designed based on the feedback received from over 10,000 digital laparoscopic procedures performed with the Senhance System, the LUNA Surgical System is the Company's next generation digital surgery platform. Through a combination of advanced minimally invasive instrumentation, the first ever digital interface between the surgeon and the console, and industry-leading clinical intelligence tools, we believe LUNA is poised to revolutionize the way surgery is performed.

The LUNA Surgical System is under development, and not currently available for use.



The LUNA Surgical System is Asensus' next generation digital surgery platform that is poised to revolutionize the way surgery is performed.

#### New Intelligent Surgical Unit Capabilities Announced

The Company's digital surgical platforms are powered by the ISU. The ISU enables real-time surgical image analytics coupled with machine vision-driven control of the camera for a surgeon by responding to commands and recognizing certain objects and locations in the surgical field. It allows the surgeon to measure anatomy, place digital tags, enhance the surgical image and offers Augmented Intelligence (AI) driven control of the camera enabling the surgeon to focus on other critical surgical tasks.

The Company is announcing incremental features sets which are now under development:

- An Analytical Feature Set, which includes pre-operative surgical planning that will allow surgeons to map out and plan for specific surgical actions intraoperatively using the ISU's Augmented Intelligence
- A Safety Feature Set, which includes "no fly zone" functionality that will enable the identification and marking of potential hazards during the operation, thereby
  restricting instruments from entering into defined anatomical structures
- A Training and Education Set, which includes telestration, allowing multiple team members to work together in real-time by annotating, highlighting and drawing on a shared visual display of the surgical field

#### **Cloud Data Architecture and Machine Learning**

Asensus Surgical previously announced that it agreed on a multi-year strategic collaboration with Google Cloud to integrate Google Cloud's secure cloud data architecture and machine learning technologies to further expand the capabilities of the Asensus Surgical's Performance-Guided Surgery framework enabled through the ISU. Google's secure cloud data architecture will capture this data and Asensus will enable customer access portals and performance dashboards for surgeons and hospitals. Google's machine learning technologies will be utilized to analyze the data and discern clinical intelligence that can be utilized by surgeons and hospitals in addition to continuously improving the software in the ISU to provide better intra-operative clinical insight. This collaboration to better capture clinical performance data and apply Augmented Intelligence capabilities is expected to provide clinical insight and drive superior outcomes for patients.

#### KARL STORZ Collaboration Agreement

The Company previously announced that it had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with KARL STORZ VentureONE Pte. Ltd. (KARL STORZ), a new wholly owned subsidiary of KARL STORZ SE & Co. KG, a global leader in the medical technologies industry, especially in the area of endoscopes, medical instruments, and devices that offers state-of-the-art technology for minimally invasive procedures in virtually all surgical specialties. As part of this agreement, KARL STORZ intends to market and sell Asensus' Intelligent Surgical Unit as a standalone device together with their IMAGE1 STM Imaging system and OR1<sup>TM</sup> integration solution. The companies also intend to work together on the integration of the ISU into KARL STORZ's laparoscopic vision systems and jointly collaborate on developing next-generation instrumentation to be used with Asensus and KARL STORZ surgical platforms. As a solution-oriented and innovative partner, KARL STORZ is in close collaboration with surgeons and health care partners around the globe to enable them to perform at their very best every day to improve patients' lives. Upon finalization of the definitive agreements, the ISU's will bring its advanced Augmented Intelligence capabilities to operating rooms around the world.

#### February 2023 Investor Day

The Company is hosting an Investor Day today, Tuesday, February 21, 2023 in New York, NY. The event will begin at 11:30 AM EST. A live webcast of the conference presentation will be available online on the investor relations page of the Company's website at <u>https://ir.asensus.com/events-and-presentations</u>. Replays of the webcasts will be archived on the website.

#### About Asensus Surgical, Inc.

Asensus Surgical, Inc. is digitizing the interface between the surgeon and patient to pioneer a new era of Performance-Guided Surgery by unlocking clinical intelligence for surgeons to enable consistently superior outcomes and a new standard of surgery. Based upon the foundation of Digital Laparoscopy with the Senhance Surgical System, the Company is developing the LUNA Surgical System, a next generation robotic and instrument system as a foundation of its Digital Surgery solution. These systems will be powered by the Intelligent Surgical Unit to increase surgeon control and reduce surgical variability. With the addition of machine vision, Augmented Intelligence, and deep learning capabilities throughout the surgical experience, we intend to holistically address the current clinical, cognitive and economic shortcomings that drive surgical outcomes and value-based healthcare. The Senhance Surgical System is now available for sale in the US, EU, Japan, Russia, and select other countries. For a complete list of indications for use, visit: www.senhance.com/indications. To learn more about Performance-Guided Surgery, Digital Laparoscopy with the Senhance Surgical System and the new LUNA System visit www.asensus.com.

#### **Follow Asensus**

Email Alerts: https://ir.asensus.com/email-alerts

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/asensus-surgical-inc

Twitter: https://twitter.com/AsensusSurgical

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/transenterix

#### Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/asxc

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release includes statements relating to Asensus Surgical and its corporate update. These statements and other statements regarding our future plans and goals constitute "forward looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and are intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that are often difficult to predict, are beyond our control and which may cause results to differ materially from expectations and include whether Asensus Surgical will be able to successfully develop its LUNA Surgical System, whether Asensus Surgical's Digital solution will enable its vision of Performance-Guided Surgery, whether the LUNA Surgical System will revolutionize the way surgery is performed, whether the incremental features sets under development for the ISU will be successful and Karl Storz. For a discussion of the risks and uncertainties associated with the Company's business, please review our filings with the SEC. you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward looking statements, which are based on our expectations as of the date of this press release. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### **INVESTOR CONTACT:**

Mark Klausner or Mike Vallie, 443-213-0499

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CG Life

irodriguez@cglife.com