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OWENS & MINOR C.I.O. RICHARD W. MEARS OUTLINES SUPPLY CHAIN LEADERSHIP AT GREATER RICHMOND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL EVENT

Richmond, VA -- Sept. 23, 2005 - Owens & Minor C.I.O. Richard W. "Rick" Mears addressed the Greater Richmond Technology Council "Good Morning Technology" breakfast event today, outlining the Fortune 500 company's technology-based strategies in supply chain management. Owens & Minor is the nation's leading distributor of national name brand medical and surgical supplies, and a healthcare supply chain management leader.

Stating that the technology goal at Owens & Minor is to extend innovation to its customers, Mears pointed out that technology is a linchpin of the company's supply chain management approach - 95% of the orders placed by their medical supply customers are placed and fulfilled electronically. Owens & Minor has developed software systems to facilitate their customers' supply chain needs such as OM Direct™, an order management system; QSight™ for inventory management; Product Manager™ to streamline supplier and product management; and WISDOM™ to handle supply chain analytics. The company has also introduced Alert Management, a system that facilitates constant process improvement.

Mears turned a dry, statistic-heavy subject into an entertaining presentation with an assist from Owens & Minor VP of Quality and Communications and "head cheerleader" Hugh F. Gouldthorpe, Jr., who was planted in the audience as a heckler. Together, Gouldthorpe and Mears illustrated the Owens & Minor team-mate culture, a key element in the company's success as a supply chain solutions leader.

Mears joined Owens & Minor in June 2005 after more than 15 years with Perot Systems Corp., a global IT business-solutions company, where he was the account executive for the Owens & Minor relationship from 1998 to 2003. When Owens & Minor outsourced its IT functions to Perot Systems in 1998, Mears oversaw the implementation of the 10-year outsourcing contract. He also helped lead Owens & Minor to #1 rankings in the InformationWeek 500 in 2001 and 2003.

The Greater Richmond Technology Council's "Good Morning Technology" breakfast event was sponsored by Core Consulting, a Richmond-based IT consulting, business consulting, and managed support company that provides strategic advisory services, project management and IT manpower.

The Greater Richmond Technology Council is an association of businesses and organizations working together to promote the success of technology companies, and the growth of the technology sector of the Central Virginia economy.

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