



Media Release

Ventana Honored by Department of Defense for Extraordinary Support of Employees Who Serve in the Arizona National Guard and Reserve

Tucson, Arizona (Feb. 20, 2012) – Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (Ventana), a Member of the Roche Group, announced today that it was honored by the Arizona Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of one of its employees, Ed Tipton, Area Director, Field Support.

The presentation took place at Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. offices at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 17, 2012. Accepting the award was Mara G. Aspinall, President, Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

According to Fred McCormick, Arizona ESGR representative who presented the award on Friday, "The Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them, have answered their nation's call to serve. Ventana was nominated for the Patriot Award by Staff Sergeant Andy A. Furtado, AZ Army National Guard, for being highly supportive of the U.S. National Guard and Furtado. Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units."

"I was hired a few weeks before my annual training," said Sergeant Furtado. "Ventana worked with me to be able to complete my obligation. Since then, I have had multiple drills that required me to be away from work for different periods of time. I would like to thank my team and my manager, Ed Tipton, for their support with an ESGR award."

During the award ceremony, Mara Aspinall also signed a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve.

The Statement of Support confirms that Ventana joins other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

"We are proud to support our employees in the Guard and Reserve, as well as all the men and women in our Armed Forces past, present and future. Because of their sacrifices, we all enjoy our freedom and safety," said Aspinall.

"Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units. I am asking all Arizona employers to review and amend their



current human resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act Law (USERRA),” said McCormick.

Ventana will post a framed ESGR/Department of Defense Statement of Support in their headquarters in Tucson, Arizona.

When asked about the criteria, McCormick said “By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, Ventana will stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees, who continue to answer their nation’s call to defend our way of life. Their personal sacrifices are essential to the strength of our nation.”

“Ventana joins a cadre of Arizona companies, state and federal agencies and thousands of America’s employers in showing support for our armed forces,” added McCormick. “By signing the Statement of Support, Ventana is sending a clear message to their employees that while they are serving their country they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs.”

As the 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions within America’s borders and beyond, ESGR will continue to be the resource for the employers of citizen warriors. ESGR provides education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. For more information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities, refer to their website at www.esgr.mil or contact Bruce Hamilton at 520-750-5891, bruce.hamilton1@us.army.mil.

About Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (“VMSI”) (SIX: RO, ROG; OTCQX: RHHBY), a member of the Roche Group, innovates and manufactures instruments and reagents that automate tissue processing and slide staining for cancer diagnostics. VENTANA solutions are used in clinical histology and drug development research laboratories worldwide. The company’s intuitive, integrated staining, workflow management platforms, and digital pathology solutions optimize laboratory efficiencies to reduce errors, support diagnosis and inform treatment decisions for anatomic pathology professionals. Together with Roche, VMSI is driving personalized healthcare through accelerated drug discovery and the development of “companion diagnostics” to identify patients most likely to respond favorably to specific therapies. Visit www.ventana.com to learn more. VENTANA and the VENTANA logo are trademarks of Roche.

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