

# Abbott Point of Care manufactures the i-STAT System; a handheld diagnostic tool that accelerates patient care decision-making

*Abbott Point of Care's i-STAT System, a handheld diagnostic blood-testing device, is used in a third of all U.S. hospitals and manufactured in Ottawa in a process involving over 200 precise, quality-controlled procedures*

## Fast facts

### Corporate profile

Abbott Point of Care, manufacturer of the i-STAT System, a handheld blood testing device for rapid point-of-care testing, develops and markets critical medical diagnostic and data management products for rapid blood analysis wherever the patient is. Abbott Point of Care's Ottawa facility currently has 800 employees and is the worldwide producer of test cartridges for the i-STAT System.

### Why Ottawa

By 2005 Abbott Point of Care was producing well over 24 million i-STAT cartridges yearly and needed a new operations plant. Abbott Point of Care chose a former Nortel Networks facility as its new production site because the building had the required infrastructure for Abbott Point of Care's exacting manufacturing processes and provided the required expansion capacity.

### Business advantage

Abbott Point of Care is dedicated to advancing innovative bedside diagnostic technology to improve patient outcomes and system efficiency by fundamentally changing the way hospitals process patients through: the emergency room, intensive care unit, operating room, catheterization laboratory and ambulatory care settings.

Abbott Point of Care Canada Ltd. manufactures the i-STAT System, which provides real-time lab-quality results within minutes to accelerate the patient care decision-making process. Abbott Point of Care's Ottawa, Ontario, facility has more than 800 employees.



**Canada's Innovation Capital**

Abbott Point of Care's flagship product is the i-STAT System, a handheld portable instrument, coupled with single use diagnostic cartridges for rapid point-of-care testing (POCT). The i-STAT System is a reliable solution for a wide range of commonly ordered blood tests required in critical care situations. The device delivers results within minutes while other methods can take 15 minutes to an hour or more. The test results are conveniently uploaded to electronic medical record systems enabling all members of the medical team access to the critical information.

The i-STAT System combines semiconductor technology, computer electronics and diagnostic software to analyze blood droplets collected on single-use i-STAT cartridges inserted into the analyzer.

### Why Ottawa

Abbott Point of Care began operations in Ottawa in 1988, producing approximately 75,000 i-STAT cartridges within the first four years. By 2005 Abbott Point of Care was producing well over 24 million units yearly and needed a new operations plant. Abbott Point of Care chose a former Nortel Networks facility as its new production site because the building had the required infrastructure for Abbott Point of Care's exacting manufacturing processes and provided the required expansion capacity.

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*Weighing only 18 ounces,  
Abbott Point of Care's  
i-STAT System is easy-to-use  
and can provide test results in  
less than 2 minutes, while lab  
testing and non-POCT  
methods take 15 minutes to  
an hour or more.*

Ottawa hosts a thriving life sciences industry and is the nation's research and development, clinical research and manufacturing hub. The city also boasts a solid base of entrepreneurial companies in the life sciences and cleantech sectors and over 40 research institutes – including the National Research Council.

Undergraduates in health services and graduates in biomedical engineering, bio-statistics, health administration and other life science programs from Ottawa's two world-class universities (Carleton University and the University of Ottawa) further contribute to the greater, supportive life sciences community.

Additionally, Ottawa offers a strong and available workforce of engineering graduates and a technically well-educated pool of employees.

### **Business advantage**

Abbott Point of Care's i-STAT System is used at 1,800 U.S. hospitals – one out of every three hospitals in the country – in emergency departments, intensive care units, operating rooms, as well as catheterization laboratories, out-patient clinics and physician offices. In each of these

clinical situations, the capability of the i-STAT System to provide accurate results quickly enables cost effective and more efficient medical care.

- The i-STAT System accelerates the availability of critical test data required to make rapid triage and treatment decisions – getting results faster improves patient care
- Weighing only 18 ounces, the easy-to-use i-STAT System analyzer can provide test results in less than 2 minutes
- The i-STAT System delivers accurate testing for the most comprehensive panel of bedside tests in the industry. The broad menu of critical care tests include: blood gases, chemistries and electrolytes, coagulation, lactate, and cardiac markers
- The i-STAT System supports the delivery of patient-centric health care with built-in quality assurances that provide the highest statistical confidence and results integrity, backed by customer service that supports system integration every step of the way

### **Future growth plans**

Abbott Point of Care has strong growth expectations as a key element of the industry leader, Abbott Laboratories. The global, broad-based healthcare and health-related sector, including the manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals and medical products, is a growing industry. Abbott currently markets products in more than 130 countries and its market share is growing. Abbott's 2007 financial statement shows net sales worldwide of \$25.9 Billion – an increase of nearly 30% over a two year time frame.

### **Contact information**

Abbott Point of Care Canada Ltd.  
+1-613-688-5949  
[www.abbottpointofcare.com](http://www.abbottpointofcare.com)



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