

## **Patterson Companies Acquires World-Leading Providers of 3D Imaging and Practice Management Software for Specialized Dental Practitioners**

**St. Paul, MN—December 19, 2008**—Patterson Companies, Inc. (Nasdaq: PDCO) today announced the acquisition by its Patterson Dental Supply unit of Dolphin Imaging Systems, LLC and Dolphin Practice Management, LLC, the world's leading providers of 3D imaging and practice management software for specialized dental practitioners, including orthodontists, oral maxillofacial surgeons and dental radiologists. Terms of the all-cash transaction were not disclosed.

With estimated sales of approximately \$13 million, Chatsworth, California-based Dolphin is profitable and debt-free.

Dolphin provides two industry-leading lines of proprietary dental software and related services:

- Dolphin's imaging software maximizes the benefits of cone beam and other digital photography and radiography systems by enabling practitioners to electronically capture, manipulate and analyze imaging records; perform diagnosis and advanced 2D and 3D visualization; and graphically simulate treatment outcomes. Dolphin's products support most cone beam systems, digital radiography systems, 2D and 3D digital photographic systems, and picture archiving and communications systems (PACS).
- Dolphin's orthodontic practice management software manages workflows, patient scheduling and financial systems.

Patterson believes there are no major competitors for Dolphin's full range of products, including image management, cephalometric tracing, treatment planning, 3D radiography, computer animation and practice management. In addition, Patterson believes certain elements of Dolphin's imaging software can be integrated into its current line of EagleSoft® software for general dental practitioners.

Dolphin's management and employees will continue with the company as part of Patterson Dental Supply.

Scott P. Anderson, president of Patterson Dental Supply, commented: "As the undisputed leader in imaging and practice management software for specialized, high-end dental practitioners, Dolphin positions Patterson Dental at the forefront of the growing field of 3D radiography solutions. The combination of our large field sales force and array of radiological systems with Dolphin's suite of products has the potential to become a profitable growth engine for our business over the next several years. In addition, aligning Dolphin with our Patterson Technology Center creates a significant opportunity to further differentiate the Dolphin and Patterson brands."

Chester H. Wang, Dolphin's managing director, added: "We are excited to be joining Patterson Dental, a leader in bringing technology to the dental market that shares our strong commitment to value-added service and a customer-oriented operating philosophy. As part of Patterson Dental, Dolphin also will be able to provide its customers with additional innovative tools aimed at making their practices more profitable and efficient."

### **About Patterson Companies, Inc.**

Patterson Companies, Inc. is a value-added distributor serving the dental, companion-pet veterinarian and rehabilitation supply markets.

#### Dental Market

As Patterson's largest business, Patterson Dental provides a virtually complete range of consumable dental products, equipment and software, turnkey digital solutions and value-added services to dentists and dental laboratories throughout North America.

#### Veterinary Market

Webster Veterinary is the nation's second largest distributor of consumable veterinary supplies,

equipment and software, diagnostic products, vaccines and pharmaceuticals to companion-pet veterinary clinics.

Rehabilitation Market

Patterson Medical is the world's leading distributor of rehabilitation supplies and non-wheelchair assistive patient products to the physical and occupational therapy markets. The unit's global customer base includes hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics and dealers.

# # #

This release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are information of a non-historical nature and are subject to risks and uncertainties that are beyond the Company's ability to control. The Company cautions shareholders and prospective investors that the following factors, among others, may cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements: competition within the dental, veterinary, and rehabilitative and assistive living supply industries; changes in the economics of dentistry, including reduced growth in expenditures by private dental insurance plans, the effects of economic conditions and the effects of healthcare reform, which may affect future per capita expenditures for dental services and the ability and willingness of dentists to invest in high-technology products; the effects of healthcare related legislation and regulation which may affect expenditures or reimbursements for rehabilitative and assistive products; changes in the economics of the veterinary supply market, including reduced growth in per capita expenditures for veterinary services and reduced growth in the number of households owning pets; the ability of the Company to maintain satisfactory relationships with its sales force; unforeseen operating risks; unexpected loss of key senior management personnel; risks associated with the dependence on manufacturers of the Company's products; and the ability of the Company to successfully integrate the recent acquisitions into its existing business. Forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by the cautionary language set forth in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2007.

For additional information contact:

R. Stephen Armstrong  
Executive Vice President & CFO  
651/686-1600

Richard G. Cinquina  
Equity Market Partners  
904/415-1415