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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**C-PATH AND VENTANA MEDICAL SYSTEMS TO COLLABORATE ON DEVELOPING
STANDARDIZED EVALUATION FOR COMPANION DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND TARGETED
CANCER THERAPIES**

Tucson, Arizona, October 10, 2007 – The Critical Path Institute (C-Path) and Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (Ventana) (NASDAQ: VMSI) today released additional information about C-Path's \$2.1 million grant from Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) to fund a collaboration project with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a standard testing and evaluation process for companion diagnostics and their associated targeted cancer therapies.

Currently, there is no proven development pathway for FDA approval of the necessary companion diagnostic tests and their associated targeted therapies. The goal of this collaboration is to establish the performance standards that would serve as the model for future FDA co-submissions of these companion diagnostic tests and their targeted drug therapies. With the SFAz grant, C-Path and Ventana will work closely with the FDA and NCI to apply these standards to one of Ventana's in-process companion diagnostic tests for lung cancer.

Gary J. Kelloff, Senior Scientist at the National Cancer Institute said, "We applaud the collaboration among the Science Foundation Arizona, The Critical Path Institute and Ventana Medical Systems on the important project of creating a standardized evaluation process for diagnostic tests. The results of this work will complement the anticipated collaborative project with the NCI."

C-Path's Chief Scientific Officer and Principal Investigator on this initiative, Jeffrey Cossman, MD, said, "The award from Science Foundation Arizona will fund an important step toward making the next generation of important patient care solutions a reality. The ultimate goal of the project is to guide the choice of targeted therapy so that patients receive the most effective treatments." President and CEO Raymond Woosley, MD, PhD, added, "This is extremely important work, and we are fortunate to have Ventana, a global leader in cancer diagnostics, as our partner."

Christopher Gleeson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ventana, commented, "Ventana's collaboration with C-Path furthers our commitment to personalized medicine and our view that companion diagnostics will increasingly become a key factor in the development and administration of many new cancer therapies."

About The Critical Path Institute

Headquartered in Tucson, Arizona with offices in Rockville, MD, C-Path was established in 2005 as a publicly funded, nonprofit research and education institute to serve as a trusted third party for collaborations between scientists and others from government, industry and academia.

C-Path's mission is to help implement the FDA's Critical Path Initiative by developing faster, safer and smarter pathways to new medical products.

Visit www.C-Path.org for more information.

About Ventana Medical Systems

Ventana develops, manufactures, and markets instrument/reagent systems that automate tissue preparation and slide staining in clinical histology and drug discovery laboratories worldwide. The Company's clinical systems are important tools used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and infectious diseases. Ventana's drug discovery systems are used to accelerate the discovery of new drug targets and evaluate the safety of new drug compounds.

Visit the Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., website at www.ventanamed.com.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This press release may contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected, depending on a variety of factors, such as risks associated with the development, manufacturing, marketing, and sale of medical products, competitive factors, general economic conditions, legal disputes, and government actions. There can be no assurances the FDA will grant marketing approval or on the timing of any FDA actions. Please refer to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and all subsequent SEC filings, for a more detailed discussion of applicable risks and uncertainties.