

Sources Sought—Medical Procedure Simulation Equipment

To enable compliance with certification requirements of the American Board of Surgery, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) is conducting market research for the acquisition of simulation equipment.

If you have similar equipment to the items shown on the attached brochures, please send brochures or catalog cuts to Travis Gibbons at travis.gibbons@va.gov by June 29, 2012.

Note: This notice is published in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 10, Market Research and FAR Part 15, Exchanges with Industry before Receipt of Proposal. This notice serves as a Request for Information (RFI) in support of market research. All information received will be used for planning purposes only. This notice does not constitute an Invitation to Bid, a Request for Proposal, or a Request for Quote. The government will not award a contract based on this notice and will not reimburse respondents for any cost associated with responses to it.

Note: THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY. This request is for planning purposes only, and does not constitute a solicitation for proposals, offers, bids, and/or quotes. This notice is not a confirmation that the Government will contract for the items contained in the RFI, nor is any commitment on the part of the Government to award a contract implied. The Government shall not pay and/or reimburse respondents and/or associates for any costs incurred to submit the requested information. Responses to the RFI will not be returned. All information received in response to this RFI that is marked Proprietary will be handled accordingly. In accordance with FAR 15.201(c), response to this RFI is not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. This RFI is issued for information, market research and/or planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation.

Re: Simbionix URO/PERC™ – Salient Characteristics

The Simbionix commitment to being a worldwide leader in simulation is evident through its unique urologic training tool, the URO/PERC Mentor. Please review this document of important advantages offered exclusively through Simbionix and its URO/PERC Mentor.

- Simbionix is the ONLY company that offers a urology simulator which allows practice in Ureteroscopy, Cystoscopy, and Percutaneous Kidney Access.
- Simulation of rigid and flexible cystoscopes and ureteroscopes including tools and guide wire manipulation.
- Practice modules are available for essential scope skills, stone extraction, stone lithotripsy, cutting strictures, and taking biopsies.
- The URO/PERC Mentor allows for Real-time simulation of fluoroscopy image manipulation and C-arm control
- Practice is available on the system for both normal and obese patients.
- The system provides excellent training in understanding the processing of 2D fluoroscopic radiographic imaging into 3D "mind's eye" visualization of anatomies
- The PERC modules allow use of needles of varying sizes and lengths for either normal or obese patient scenarios.
- User-Interface – Intuitive and easy to use, the user-interface makes the simulation experience a more complete and interactive. Allows user to stay focused on the case and tasks involved in monitoring the patient
- Reliability of System – Non-contact optical tracking system offers the best reliability and durability than conventional electromechanical tracking.
- Management Mode – The management mode feature is designed as an integrated curriculum allowing instructors to build training programs, assign cases, group performances and data, export data into excel spreadsheet format, and archive older material
- Simbionix Service – Offers 24-hour service line for questions regarding your simulator. Simbionix technicians work closely with our customers to assist in making sure the simulator runs smoothly without operation problems. The simulator also has an internet connection which allows Simbionix technicians to access to the simulator via the internet and diagnose and solve problems to avoid least down-time.
- Our leading customer service provides 24-hour technical support. We also offer remote access through each of our simulators. The simulator can hook up to a stable internet connection and our customer service technicians can diagnose the majority of problems from remote locations.

Re: Simbionix LAP Mentor™ – Salient Characteristics

The Simbionix LAP Mentor™ is the most comprehensive laparoscopic simulator available in the market. The LAP Mentor™ offers a variety of cases for practicing laparoscopic basic skills and full procedure cases. Some of the biggest factors that make the Simbionix LAP Mentor™ unique are the fact that we offer the most full-procedure modules, cases, complications, and widest degree of difficulty for users of all levels.

- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers an Incisional Hernia Module. The full procedure Incisional Hernia Module features cases of hernia removal using simulated tools common to real surgeries such as the Harmonic Scalpel by Ethicon. In addition, this module offers simulated self sticking mesh, fixation devices, touch screen capabilities, and incorporating suturing techniques.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers a Nephrectomy Module. The full procedure Nephrectomy Module allows the user to identify the anatomy such as the ureter, gonadal vein, renal vein, renal artery, decide about the adrenal gland, perform the Hilar Dissection and perform the Colon Mobilization with a complete instrument set.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers a Sigmoidectomy Module. The full procedure Sigmoidectomy Module allows the user to identify anatomy such as the ureter, IMA, IMV, gonadal, incise the peritoneum, dissect in the correct tissue planes, expose and dissect vessels, and perform distal division and anastomosis. This module was developed using SAGES (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons) guidelines.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers a Gastric Bypass Module. This full procedure Gastric Bypass Module allows the user to complete a gastric bypass in its four primary steps; creation of the gastric pouch, running of the bowel, gastro jejunostomy, and gastrojejunal anastomosis with a complete instrument set.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers a Full Procedure GYN Module in a completely free environment. The full procedure GYN Module allows the user to identify the locations of the uterine artery, ovarian vessels, internal and external iliac vessels, to remove ectopic pregnancies, to perform tubal sterilization in a variety of methods, and perform a salpingo-oophorectomy.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is the only simulator that offers a Full Procedure Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy in a completely free environment. The module enables training on key components such as uterine manipulation, superior pedicle division, bladder mobilization, exposure and division of the uterine artery, and colpotomy.
- Simbionix is the only company to offer both a Step by Step Task and Full Procedural LAP Chole Modules. The LAP Chole Task Module is geared towards teaching surgical residents the basic steps of a gall bladder removal including where to grab, clip, cut and resect. The LAP Chole full procedure has six cases and randomly selected from three different anatomies which totals 18 full procedure cases.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor has the most available Modules of all the laparoscopic simulators in the industry. The Modules include Basic Skills, Essential Tasks, Basic Suturing, Advanced Suturing, Hernia, Gastric Bypass, GYN, Sigmoidectomy and Nephrectomy. *Coming soon a Hysterectomy Module.*



- Simbionix is the only company that simulates actual industry tools. We have a working relationship with industry corporations such as Ethicon; we are able to simulate real tools which have the look and the feel of actual tools such as circular staplers, liner cutters, and harmonic scalpels.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor is also the most tested and validated simulator on the market today. Simbionix has more than 100 publications that all support and demonstrate the validity, effectiveness and usefulness of our simulators.
- The Simbionix LAP Mentor satisfies more specialties than anyone else in the industry. This includes General Surgery, Bariatrics, OB/GYN, Colon & Rectal and Urology.
- Simbionix is the only company that allows users to practice and use unique features such as:
 - Changing trocar configuration on patients
 - Adjusting insufflation pressures (CO2 levels)
 - Changing camera angles during cases
 - Using assisting graspers
 - Step by step tutorials
 - Actual video feeds from real surgeries
 - Visual guidance modes for beginners
 - 3D color coded anatomical atlas that follows the camera in real time
 - Split screens of the procedure, anatomical atlas or guidance

Re: Simbionix GI-BRONCH Mentor™ – Salient Characteristics

The Simbionix GI-BRONCH Mentor was the first Flexible Endoscopy Simulator in the world, brought to market in 1999. The simulator has progressed over the years and now offers more simulation options than ever before. The advantages of the Simbionix GI-BRONCH Mentor™ are significant as the GI-BRONCH Mentor™ is the foremost flexible endoscopy and bronchoscopy trainer in the world:

- SAGES, The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons chose our GI-BRONCH Mentor to develop FES, the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery that will certify future surgeons in Endoscopy.
- AABIP, The American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology has developed our Essential Bronchoscopy Module in conjunction with us and is endorsing it.
- The Simbionix GI- BRONCH Mentor offers more than 120 tasks and cases combined, to have the LARGEST library of case scenarios. The range of diagnostic and therapeutic treatment procedures include Colonoscopy, EGD, Emergency Bleeding Situations, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy, ERCP, EUS, Flexible Bronchoscopy, Emergency Bronchoscopy and EBUS.
- The Simbionix GI- BRONCH Mentor is the ONLY simulator to offer flexible endoscopy skill building exercises which include Endo-Basket and Endo-Bubble. The exercises are world recognized for their training importance in developing essential flexible endoscopy skills.
- The Simbionix GI- BRONCH Mentor offers SUPERIOR graphics based on physicians testimonies, which includes real lighting, shadowing, flexible organs, etc.
- The GI-BRONCH Mentor offers contextual virtual instructor alerts when trainee's performance is not optimal.
- The GI-BRONCH Mentor has an elegant 24" touch screen that supports multiple working positions and promotes team training.
- The GI-BRONCH Mentor has vital signs displayed in real time, a real time Ramsey Scale, local anesthesia, moderate sedation, altering consciousness, hemodynamic complications, real time anatomy labeling and oxygen supplements in our Bronchoscopy Cases.
- The GI-BRONCH Mentor is the only simulator that allows the trainee to stand in posterior or lateral bronchoscopy positions, use oral or nasal entry, and the ability to turn the real time navigational compass and displayed naming convention on and off in our Bronchoscopy cases.
- The GI-BRONCH Mentor enhances team training by allowing the trainees to use a physical syringe in Bronchoscopy and virtual tools in Upper GI Bleeding cases.
- Simbionix is the only simulation company to allow each tool to be used ANYTIME throughout a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. Our clinical environment is unrestricted.
- Simbionix is the only simulation company that uses authentic Flexible GI Endoscopes, Duodenoscopes, Bronchoscopes, syringe and EBUS Needle. The only modified part is the tip of the scopes so that the computer recognizes the movements in real time.
- Simbionix is the only simulation company to offer a variety of over 30 different active tools including but not limited to a guide-wire, sphincterotome, catheter, basket, dilation balloon, extraction balloon, biopsy brush, needle knife, etc.



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- Simbionix is the only simulation company to offer a real time 3D Map at all times during the case to allow understanding of the scope shape and position during movement through the anatomy.
 - Simbionix is the only simulation company to offer an EUS Module (Endoscopic Ultrasound).
 - Simbionix is the only simulation company to offer an Emergency Bronchoscopy Module.
 - Simbionix is the only simulation company to offer Linear and Radial EBUS.
 - Simbionix is the only simulation company to use an authentic Olympus EBUS Needle.
 - Simbionix is the only simulation company that shows blood vessels pulsating within the EBUS Module.
 - The Simbionix GI-BRONCH Mentor is the most validated endoscopic simulator in the market.

Re: Simbionix ANGIO MentorTM – Salient Characteristics

The Simbionix commitment to being a worldwide leader in simulation is evident through the development of the ANGIO Mentor. The Simbionix ANGIO Mentor has grown to become the most complete ANGIO simulator available on the market. Please review this document of important advantages offered exclusively through Simbionix and its ANGIO Mentor Ultimate and ANGIO Express.

- Simbionix is the ONLY company that offers the PROcedure Rehearsal Studio. The PRS is a unique concept which allows actual patient CTA scans or MRA's to be loaded on the simulator, interactively, and allow practice on actual patient anatomy in real time.
- Simbionix is the ONLY company which currently offers modules for practicing Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA), Aortic Valve Replacement, and Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm in the transverse aortic area.
- Simbionix is the ONLY simulation company that enables a user to perform a complete CRM procedure using 3 electrodes: RA, RV, LV and performing actual PSA measurements
- Simbionix is the ONLY simulation company that offers an interactive 3-D map, ideal for referencing vessels, anatomy, and navigating. The 3-D mapping is a feature highly beneficial to an ICVT program.
- Simbionix' Neurovascular simulation is a stable simulation using biplane and allows for complication simulation such as aneurysm perforations.
- Platform – Simbionix offers an integrated system incorporating a fixed haptic tracking mechanism. The haptic levels can be adjusted to provide the user with the sensation they are most used to feeling while performing a case. This force-feedback mechanism eliminates system down time encountered with electro-mechanical systems. We offer several hardware platforms which provide ultimate portability.
- Wire and Catheter Simulation – Based on a physical simulation for a realistic and adjustable simulation. Wire and catheter behavior provide the user with a most realistic sensation. The reliability of the simulator is a key to the success of your program
- Patient Care Monitoring – Simbionix offers hemodynamic monitoring and pharmacological treatment. Also, only with the ANGIO Mentor can track ACT levels and neurological examinations can be performed. A drug console is offered to treat specific instances such as spasms, bradycardia, and tachycardia. Specific audio feedback and patient reaction to specific drug intervention allow users a more interactive simulation environment
- Intra-Arterial Pressure Management – Simbionix allows for measurements to be taken via guiding catheters or interventional catheters
- Digital Caliper – Allows for easy access of practicing measurement of lesions and target vessels. Digital caliper is included as a system feature at no additional cost.
- Bi Plane X-Ray – Only Simbionix allows use of bi plane x-ray on cerebral cases.
- User-Interface – Intuitive and easy to use, the user-interface makes the simulation experience a more complete and interactive. Allows user to stay focused on the case and tasks involved in monitoring the patient

Simbionix™

To Advance Clinical Performance 

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- Performance Metrics – Over fifty metrics measured during each procedure including wire and catheter movement, time, accuracy, efficiency, etc. A new “procedure log” tracks, at a specific time, every wire or catheter chosen, drug used, intervention performed, patient reaction/complication, and any angiographies taken.
 - Reliability of System – Non-contact optical tracking system offers the best reliability and durability than conventional electromechanical tracking.
 - Management Mode – The management mode feature is designed as an integrated curriculum allowing instructors to build training programs, assign cases, group performances and data, export data into excel spreadsheet format, and archive older material
 - Simbionix Service – Offers 24-hour service line for questions regarding your simulator. Simbionix technicians work closely with our customers to assist in making sure the simulator runs smoothly without operation problems. The simulator also has an internet connection which allows Simbionix technicians to access to the simulator via the internet and diagnose and solve problems to avoid least down-time.
 - Featured Modules – Carotid cases with featured baroreceptor responses, renals, SFA's, Iliac's, coronary, cerebral, CRM, AAA, valve repair, peripheral embolism, thoracic aortic aneurysm (TVAR), transeptal puncture and AF ablation are modules offered only through Simbionix.
 - Established Reputation - Simbionix ANGIO Mentor has been around for over 8 years and has evolved into the most dynamic ANGIO training platform in the world. Offering the most training scenarios, cases, and complicated scenarios, the ANGIO Mentor allows users to practice using both generic tools (wires, catheters) and product specific medical devices with our simulator.
 - Our leading customer service provides 24-hour technical support. We also offer remote access through each of our simulators. The simulator can hook up to a stable internet connection and our customer service technicians can diagnose the majority of problems from remote locations.
 - We have established strong non-exclusive relationships with multiple medical device companies using our simulators to enhance their products and train their staff on product specific-procedures. A sample of industry partners include: Cordis J&J, Gore, Core Valve, Medtronic, Boston Scientific, Abbott, Atrium Medical and Spectranetics. These companies have replaced previous simulators with Simbionix simulators because of our ability to create the most realistic environment for simulation practice and training.