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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THEKEN LAUNCHES TWO PEEK-OPTIMA™ SPINAL SPACERS TO EXPAND PRODUCT LINE**

*The Vu C-POD™ and Vu L-POD™ PEEK-OPTIMA™ Spacers receive  
FDA clearance*

**AKRON, OH (June 13, 2005)** Theken Spine, a leader in spinal implant systems, today announced FDA clearance for the Vu C-POD and Vu L-POD. The Vu C-POD and Vu L-POD are manufactured from PEEK-OPTIMA, a radiolucent thermoplastic from Invibio™. These are used to restore the biomechanical integrity of the anterior, medius and posterior spinal column in the thoracolumbar region of the spine. The material properties of PEEK provide significant benefit including a high compressive strength, coupled with a modulus of elasticity that is similar to bone. Additionally, the radiolucent property of PEEK provides for clear fusion assessment. Theken currently offers a line of titanium alloy spacers. With the additions of the Vu L-POD and Vu C-POD, Theken will now offer more spacer options to neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, who specialize in spine procedures.

“PEEK-OPTIMA and titanium alloy are the most popular materials for spinal VBR spacers. The type of implant material selected by a surgeon usually is based on the patient’s needs and the surgeon’s preference. By expanding our product portfolio to include PEEK, we are now able to grow our surgeon base to include surgeons who prefer or require PEEK spacers,” Randy Theken, Founder of Theken Spine.

The Vu C-POD and Vu L-POD are designed to mimic the bone contours. The spacers are anatomically contoured with 3-D convex surfaces that conform to the vertebral body anatomy. The teeth grip the endplates creating a strong structural support which help promote bone-to-bone contact required for bony fusion. Overall, the design enables optimum graft area both inside and around the implant.

“The convex designs of the Vu L-POD and the Vu C-POD are well engineered. They fit tightly between the vertebral bodies and the teeth aggressively grip the endplates which help prevent dislodgement,” said Dr. Samuel Jorgenson, The Spine Institute of Idaho.

The Vu C-POD features a quick release insertion tool that reduces the number of surgical steps and operating room time required to insert and remove the implant.

“The Vu C-POD quick release insertion tool is so simple to use it helps shorten the OR time per case,” said Dr. Joseph Verska, The Spine Institute of Idaho.

### **About Theken**

The Theken family of companies Theken Spine LLC, Theken Orthopaedic LLC and Theken Disc LLC ([www.theken.com](http://www.theken.com)) specializes in pioneering spinal implant technologies that improve spinal surgical techniques benefiting patients as well as surgeons. Theken provides comprehensive product lines that offer surgeons peace of mind through steadfast product reliability and easy-to-use instrumentation. Products include cervical plates, pedicle screws, spacers, degenerative/deformity and trauma devices. Theken also leads the market in next-generation artificial disc replacement technology.

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