

Employee Growth Dips at OC Medical Device Makers

Busy Year of Acquisitions, IPOs and New Products

By YUIKA YOSHIDA

ORANGE COUNTY — Orange County’s medical device industry remains highly active, despite the appearance of slowing growth on the surface.

The 25 companies reported 22,495 employees, a less than 1% decrease from a year ago. It’s the first decline in three years. The dip was driven in part by layoffs at **Masimo Corp.**

Perennial top device maker **Edwards Lifesciences Corp.** (NYSE: EW) saw its local headcount drop 14% to 4,254 due to the \$4.2 billion sale of its Critical Care unit to **Becton, Dickinson and Co.** last year. The sale was a pivot from the company’s original plan to spin out the unit as an independent publicly traded company.

“It was the best for the business, employees, patients and less risky than the spin,” Edwards Chief Executive **Bernard Zovoghian** told the Business Journal in February.

Becton decided to keep the unit in Irvine and renamed it to **BD Advanced Patient Monitoring**, which counts 500 local and 4,300 global employees. The new company is led by Worldwide President **Tim Patz**.

Masimo Lays Off 75 Employees

The other decline came from Irvine’s Masimo (Nasdaq: MASI), whose headcount fell 4.9% to 839 employees. Companywide, it increased 6.3% to 9,515 employees.

Masimo’s layoff of 75 Irvine employees took effect on Jan. 13, affecting senior roles in engineering, design and marketing and others.

The layoffs came amid a new company strategy of investing less in wearables.

“We are allocating resources to fewer projects, concentrating on sizable market opportunities that address clear unmet needs, and ensuring we can continue to invest heavily in innovation,” a Masimo spokesperson told the Business Journal last year when the termination notices were first revealed in November.

This year, **Katie Szyman** stepped in as the company’s next permanent CEO following founder **Joe Kiani**’s departure from the company. Szyman led BD APM for about five months before she was tapped by Masimo for the role.

Axonics, Inari Acquisitions

Two Irvine companies that were on the list last year have since been acquired.

Boston Scientific Corp. last November completed its \$3.7 billion purchase of **Axonics Inc.**, followed by the acquisition of **Inari Medical Inc.** by **Stryker Corp.** for \$4.9 bil-



TAE Life Sciences’ local headcount jumped 42.8% to 100, the largest increase out of all the device makers

The Irvine-based company is developing next-generation cancer treatments with technology developed at nuclear reactors. Its product is called the **Alphabeam System**, which is much smaller than a reactor and can make neutrons available in a hospital.

TAE Life Sciences said it’s aiming for U.S. approval in 2026.

The next biggest local jump was 35.1% to 235 employees at **Nihon Kohden America**, the U.S. arm of Japan-based **Nihon Kohden Corp.**

Last year, the company appointed **Roy Sakai** as president. Under his leadership, Nihon Kohden launched two new products and acquired a 71.4% stake in **NeuroAdvanced Corp.** in a “strategic move to enhance its neurology portfolio,” a spokesperson for the company said.

Irvine-based **Pro-Dex Inc.**, which manufactures powered surgical products, grew its local employee count 19.2% to 186.

Pro-Dex Chief Executive **Richard Van Kirk** attributed the growth to “a large increase in the business, driven by a next generation product for a large customer.”

Last month, he told the Business Journal that the firm’s investment in a second manufacturing facility, as well as people and equipment, helped drive sales, which increased 28% to \$53.8 million over a two-year period. ■

Research Director Desmond Celo contributed to this report.

The LIST
Medical Device Makers
p 28

THE LIST MEDICAL DEVICE MAKERS

► NEXT WEEK’S LIST *Apparel Companies*

Rank	Company	Company logo	OC employees	Companywide employees	Partial list of products	Parent company	Top local official(s)	
Prev. Rank	•Address		•yearly % change	•yearly % change		•Headquarters	•Title •Phone/fax	
1	Edwards Lifesciences Corp. 1 Edwards Way (1) Irvine 92614-5688 Website: edwards.com		4,254 -14%	15,669 -23%	Transcatheter heart valve repair and replacement systems, surgical structural heart therapies, hemodynamic monitoring systems	Edwards Lifesciences Corp. Irvine	Bernard J. Zovoghian CEO (949) 250-2500/(949) 250-2525	
2	Applied Medical Resources Corp. 22872 Avenida Empresa (2) Rancho Santa Margarita 92688-2650 Website: appliedmedical.com Email: contact@appliedmedical.com		3,593 3%	5,533 4%	Less-invasive surgery devices	Applied Medical Resources Corp. Rancho Santa Margarita	Said S. Hilal CEO/president (949) 713-8000/(949) 713-8200	
3	B. Braun Medical Inc. 2525 McGaw Ave. (4) Irvine 92614-5841 Website: bbraunusa.com		2,000 8%	65,000 0%	Pharmaceutical intravenous solutions, pumps, IV sets, dialysis equipment	B. Braun Melsungen AG Melsungen, Germany	Pete Klaes VP/general manager (949) 660-2000	
3	Medtronic Neurovascular⁽¹⁾ 5290 California Ave. (3) Irvine 92617-3229 Website: medtronic.com		2,000 ⁽²⁾ NA	95,000 0%	Neurovascular disorder devices	Medtronic PLC Dublin	Brett Wall president/executive VP (949) 837-3700	
5	Johnson & Johnson MedTech 31 Technology Drive, Ste. 200 (5) Irvine 92618-2346 Website: thenext.jnjmedtech.com Email: media-relations@its.jnj.com		1,600 3%	130,000 -17%	Surgical vision products for cataracts and vision correction; interventional solutions to treat atrial fibrillation and stroke; breast aesthetics and reconstruction options	Johnson & Johnson New Brunswick, N.J.	Michael Bodner/Celine Martin company group chair, Electrophysiology & Neurovascular/company group chairman, Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions (CSS) Group (732) 524-0400	
6	Alcon⁽¹⁾ 20511 Lake Forest Drive (6) Lake Forest 92630-7741 Website:alcon.com		1,500 ⁽²⁾ NA	25,178 ⁽²⁾ NA	Eye surgery devices	Alcon Inc. Geneva, Switzerland	David Endicott CEO (949) 215-3139	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable
Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.

⁽¹⁾ Current data was not provided prior to Business Journal publication
⁽²⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Desmond Celo











► Continued on page 28

THE LIST MEDICAL DEVICE MAKERS

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LIST *Apparel Companies*

▶ From page 26


MEDICAL DEVICE MAKERS

Rank Prev. Rank	Company •Address	Company logo	OC employees •yearly % change	Companywide employees •yearly % change	Partial list of products	Parent company •Headquarters	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
7 (9)	Medtronic Orange County⁽⁴⁾ 9775 Toledo Way ⁽³⁾ Irvine 92705-5720 Website: medtronic.com		1,161 1%	95,000 0%	Tissue heart valves	Medtronic PLC Dublin	Angel Garcia manufacturing director/site director, Santa Ana (949) 474-3943/(949) 474-3953	
8 (7)	Terumo Neuro 35 Enterprise Aliso Viejo 92656-2601 Website: microvention.com		1,036 2%	3,750 14%	Neuroendovascular treatments for cerebral aneurysms, ischemic stroke, carotid artery disease, and neurovascular malformations	Terumo Corp. Tokyo	Carsten Schroeder CEO/president (714) 247-8000/(949) 680-4287	
9 (8)	Masimo Corp. 52 Discovery Irvine 92618-3105 Website: masimo.com		839 -5%	9,515 6%	Patient monitors, sensors, hospital automation technologies, telehealth solutions	Masimo Corp. Irvine	Katie Szyman CEO (949) 297-7000/(949) 297-7499	
10 (11)	Canon Medical Systems USA 2441 Michelle Drive Tustin 92780-7047 Website: us.medical.canon		659 0%	1,122 0%	Diagnostic imaging equipment	Canon Inc. Tokyo	Hisashi Tachizaki CEO/president (714) 730-5000/(714) 730-4022	
11 (12)	Beckman Coulter Inc.⁽¹⁾ 250 S. Kraemer Blvd. Brea 92821-6232 Website: beckmancoulter.com		623 ⁽²⁾ NA	11,000 ⁽²⁾ NA	Diagnostic systems used in complex biomedical testing for clinical chemistry, immunoassay, hematology, microbiology, urinalysis, automation and clinical informatics	Danaher Corp. Washington, D.C.	Kevin O'Reilly president (714) 993-5321/(800) 232-3828	



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12 (NR)	BD Advanced Patient Monitoring 17200 Laguna Canyon Road Irvine 92618-5403 Website: bd.com		550 0%	4,300 0%	Portfolio of smart connected care solutions, integrating AI-powered technologies and smart monitoring systems to manage hemodynamic instability	BD New Jersey	Tim Patz worldwide president, advanced patient monitoring (201) 847-6800	
13 (13)	Glaukos Corp. 1 Glaukos Way Aliso Viejo 92656-2704 Website: glaukos.com		510 12%	995 5%	iStent, a trabecular micro-bypass stent	Glaukos Corp. Aliso Viejo	Thomas W. Burns chairman/CEO (949) 367-9600/(949) 367-9984	
14 (15)	Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP) 33 Technology Drive Irvine 92618-2346 Website: asp.com Email: asp-communications@asp.com		350 0%	1,740 0%	Sterrad systems with AllClear technology, ASP access technology, Sterrad velocity biological indicator system, Evotech endoscope cleaner and reprocessor	Fortive Corp. Everett, Wash.	Chad Rohrer president (888) 783-7723	
15 (18)	RxSight Inc. 100 Columbia Aliso Viejo 92656-4114 Website: rx sight.com Email: contact@rxsight.com		267 4%	498 6%	Adjustable intraocular lenses used in cataract surgery	RxSight Inc. Aliso Viejo	Ron Kurtz CEO/president (949) 521-7830	
16 (17)	ICU Medical Inc.⁽¹⁾ 951 Calle Amanecer San Clemente 92673-6212 Website: icumed.com Email: cacustomerservice@icumed.com		238 ⁽²⁾ NA	15,000 7%	IV solutions, IV smart pumps, dedicated and non-dedicated IV sets and needle-free connectors; pain management and safety software technology	ICU Medical Inc. San Clemente	Vivek Jain CEO (949) 366-2183/(949) 366-8368	

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⁽⁴⁾ Previously listed as Medtronic Heart Valves

⁽³⁾ Other campus is located at 1851 E. Deere Ave, Santa Ana












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17 (14)	Nihon Kohden America 15353 Barranca Pkwy. Irvine 92618-2216 Website: nihonkohden.com Email: info@nihonkohden.com		235 35%	6,000 6%	Patient monitoring, ventilation, remote monitoring, remote viewing, telemetry, SaaS, sleep diagnostic and data management solutions, EEG and Service	Nihon Kohden Corp. Tokyo	Roy Sakai president (949) 580-1555/(949) 580-1550	
18 (19)	Baxter International Inc. ⁽¹⁾ 17511 Armstrong Ave. Irvine 92614-5725 Website: baxter.com		200 ⁽²⁾ NA	60,000 ⁽²⁾ NA	IV medications, solutions, sets, and infusion pumps; dialysis products; anesthesia, acute therapies, nutrition and surgical products; pharmacy compounding automation systems	Baxter International Inc. Deerfield, Ill.	Vincent Marchionni plant manager (949) 851-9066	
19 (21)	Pro-Dex Inc. 2361 McGaw Ave. Irvine 92614-5831 Website: pro-dex.com Email: rick.vankirk@pro-dex.com		186 19%	186 19%	Powered surgical instruments	Pro-Dex Inc. Irvine	Rick V. Kirk CEO/president (949) 769-3200/(949) 769-3280	
20 (19)	Endologix LLC ⁽¹⁾ 2 Musick Irvine 92618-1631 Website: endologix.com Email: customerservice@endologix.com		181 ⁽²⁾ NA	485 ⁽²⁾ NA	AFX2 and ALTO: endovascular stent grafts for the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms	Deerfield Management New York City	Matthew Thompson CEO/president (949) 595-7200/(949) 699-9622	
21 (22)	Aspen Medical Products 6481 Oak Canyon Irvine 92618-5202 Website: aspenmp.com Email: kgray@aspenmp.com		120 0%	485 4%	Spinal and all orthopedic bracing products for immobilization, recuperation and healing of orthopedic issues	Cortec Group New York City	Jim Clour CEO/president (949) 681-0200	



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22 (23)	Staar Surgical Co. 25510 Commercentre Drive Lake Forest 92630-8841 Website: staar.com Email: customerservice@staar.com		102 0%	1,100 -1%	EVO ICL implantable collamer lenses	Staar Surgical Co. Lake Forest	Stephen C. Farrell/Elizabeth Yeu CEO/chair (626) 303-7902/(626) 359-8402	
23 (24)	Abbott Laboratories 2375 Morse Ave. Irvine 92614-6233 Website: abbott.com Email: info@abbott.com		100 ⁽²⁾ NA	114,000 ⁽²⁾ NA	Medical technologies that focus on heart failure, atrial fibrillation, neuromodulation, traditional cardiac rhythm management and cardiovascular	Abbott Laboratories Abbott Park, Ill.	Vinh Pham site director, operations (949) 851-3053	
23 (NR)	TAE Life Sciences 9750 Irvine Blvd., Ste. 101 Irvine 92618-1605 Website: taelifesciences.com Email: atheriault@taelifesciences.com		100 43%	100 0%	Alphabeam neutron system, targeted boron drugs	TAE Technologies Irvine	Rob Hill CEO (949) 830-2117	
25 (NR)	Beta Bionics 11 Hughes Irvine 92618-1902 Website: betabionics.com Email: info@betabionics.com		91 30%	355 52%	iLet bionic pancreas system, bionic circle app, and pause insulin	Beta Bionics Irvine	Sean Saint CEO/board member (949) 427-7785	

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