TRUMPF Medical Systems EasyView Component Coupler Honored In GOOD DESIGN Awards

A new mechanism from TRUMPF Medical Systems that makes attaching and removing its surgical table components easier and safer has been named a winner in the world's oldest and most prestigious design awards competition. The new TRUMPF EasyView component coupler was honored in the GOOD DESIGN Awards. The competition, founded in 1950, is organized by The Chicago Athenaeum: Architecture and Design Museum, along with The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

The GOOD DESIGN Award bestows international recognition upon designers and manufacturers for advancing new and innovative product concepts and for stretching the envelope beyond what is considered standard product and consumer design.

This most recent honor marks the third time TRUMPF has won the coveted award, having been previously named in 2007 for its iLED Surgical Light and again in 2008 for the AmbientLine environmental and task lighting system.

Safety and Ease of Use Guide Product Development

TRUMPF's winning entry was the direct result of extensive customer feedback and ongoing collaboration with healthcare professionals.

Clinicians—often operating room nurses—are responsible for configuring surgical tables prior to a case, by attaching specific components required for the procedure. When TRUMPF began designing their new TruSystem 7000 surgical table they solicited an unprecedented amount of customer participation. This collaborative process confirmed that among the clinician's primary concerns in working with surgical tables were safety, ease of use and having lighter weight components.

"Our main objective was to meet those needs and completely transform the user experience," said TRUMPF Senior Engineer Ted Daley. In addition Daley notes that to be truly successful the design had to enable an untrained user to quickly and effectively learn to use the device properly without instruction.

As a result of these objectives the EasyView component coupler, a self-aligning connect and lock system, was born. Among the coupler's safety and ease-of-use innovations are the oversized design of the latch hook, and its mating component. This, along with its exterior placement, gives the user full visibility of the mechanism's locked or unlocked state. In addition, an audible "click" confirms a proper connection has been made. "The ease of use and built in safety features allow the clinician to focus more fully on the patient," said Daley. "This helps meet the goal we share with our customers of improving patient care."

As part of the overall system, TRUMPF also developed a universal coding system designed to prevent accidental misuse of the wrong sized component in each configuration.

“Through our research to improve the coupler we learned a lot about our product over all. More than anything else, our users told us that all removable components needed to be lighter,” said Daley. In response TRUMPF has begun developing an entirely new line of table components that are on average 25% lighter than previous models.”

Judges Evaluate Several Thousand Nominations from 48 Countries

For 2012, the GOOD DESIGN Awards competition received submissions from several thousand of the world's leading manufacturers and industrial and graphic design firms from around the world representing the most important and critical mass of influential corporations worldwide from over 48 countries. In late 2012, the jury met in New York and selected over 700 product designs and graphics worthy of the GOOD DESIGN Award for their Design Excellence.

Historically award winners include companies synonymous with innovation and Good Design such as Apple, Boeing, Porsche, BMW, Cisco, Mercedes Benz and 3M.

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