

**CALIFORNIA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND  
ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION FINANCING AUTHORITY**

***Request to Approve Project for Sales and Use Tax Exclusion (STE)<sup>1</sup>***

**Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc.  
Application No. 20-SM027**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

Prepared By: *Ashley Emery, Program Manager*

**SUMMARY**

**Applicant** – Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc.

**Location** – Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County

**Industry** – Advanced Robotic Surgical Systems and Tools

**Project** – Upgrade and Expansion of Existing Advanced Robotic Surgical Systems and Instruments and Accessories Manufacturing Facility (Advanced Manufacturing)

**Value of Qualified Property** – \$82,500,000

**Estimated Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Amount<sup>2</sup>** – \$6,897,000

**Competitive Criteria Score** – 70

**Application Score** –

Fiscal Benefits Points:	2,960
<u>Environmental Benefits Points:</u>	<u>50</u>
<b>Net Benefits Score:</b>	<b>3,010</b>

<u>Additional Benefits Points:</u>	<u>105</u>
<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>3,115</b>

**Staff Recommendation** – Approval

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<sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms not defined in this document are defined in the Program’s statute and regulations.

<sup>2</sup> This amount is calculated based on the average statewide sales tax rate of 8.36%.

## **THE APPLICANT**

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (“ISI”) and its subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc. (“ISO”) are requesting a sales and use tax exclusion together as Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc. (“Intuitive” or the “Applicant”) to design, manufacture, market and distribute advanced robotic surgical systems and tools used to perform gynecological, urological, general, cardiothoracic, and head and neck surgeries. Located in Sunnyvale at its centralized global headquarters, the Applicant is comprised of two Delaware corporations that are publicly traded under the symbol ISRG. According to the Applicant, ISI was founded in 1995, however for various business reasons, including limitation of liability, ISO was formed. While ISI primarily oversees marketing, selling and administrative activities, and ISO oversees R&D and manufacturing personnel and assets activities, the two entities share overlapping manufacturing and production responsibilities as it operates as one consolidated business.

Intuitive’s products include the *da Vinci Xi*, *da Vinci X*, and *da Vinci SP*, which primarily consist of a patient cart, surgeon console, and vision cart. Intuitive’s *da Vinci* systems enable surgeons to perform surgeries such as prostatectomies, hysterectomies, hernia repair, cholecystectomies, nephrectomies, and bariatric surgery—in a less invasive manner.

According to the Applicant, in November 2019 the FDA approved its most recent instruments, the SynchroSeal and E-100 Generator, which use advanced bipolar energy to seal and transect tissue then cool it down quickly, which allows surgeons to seal and move at a faster pace.

On February 19, 2019, the CAEATFA Board granted Intuitive an STE award for the purchase of up to \$96,875,430 in Qualified Property for an estimated STE value of \$8,098,786 to upgrade and expand its existing design and manufacturing facility located in Sunnyvale. As of the end of 2019, the Applicant has reported approximately \$20.6 million in Qualified Property purchases (21% of the total Qualified Property Amount Approved).

The corporate officers of Intuitive are:

Gary S. Guthart, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Salvatore J. Brogna, EVP and Chief Operating Officer  
Myriam J. Curet, M.D., EVP and Chief Medical Officer  
David J. Rosa, EVP and Chief Commercial Officer  
Kara Andersen Reiter, SVP, General Counsel, and Chief Compliance Officer  
Marshall L. Mohr, SVP and Chief Financial Officer

## **THE PROJECT**

Intuitive is requesting a sales and use tax exclusion to further upgrade and expand its existing design and manufacturing facility located in Sunnyvale (the “Project”). The Applicant explains the Project will include an additional 400,000 square feet of facility space and upgrades and additional production, research, design, testing, and prototyping equipment over the next three years.

A portion of the Applicant's Project will relate to its Ion product line, known as the Ion Endoluminal System, which is a robotic-assisted platform for performing minimally invasive biopsy of the lung. The system cart includes software, a controller, and a planning laptop with software to convert patient CT scans into 3D airway trees for planning navigation prior to operation. The system also includes an ultra-thin catheter capable of 180-degree articulation in any direction and has a 3.5mm outer diameter. According to the Applicant, the catheter has fiber optic shape sensors along its length to provide real-time shape information for easier navigation. The system also includes a probe to provide real-time fluoroscopic, radial endobronchial ultrasound, virtual, and live view in a single display, and a biopsy needle that can pass through the tight-radius bends within the catheter and deploy straight open exiting the end of the catheter.



*Figure 1: Intuitive's Ion Endoluminal System Cart*

Intuitive states its manufacturing process utilizes extensive research and information technology into the science of medicine and surgery. For example, the Applicant applies machine learning to improve the software ability to plan biopsy paths through the lung segment structures. Intuitive explains its production team also use highly precise tools that utilize algorithms within microprocessors to carefully build and customize its devices. Highly sensitive tools are used that measure and track the exact amount of torque used at every moment of product assembly.

Additionally, Intuitive anticipates this Project will results in approximately 30% less energy consumption compared to its previous manufacturing process through the installation of rooftop solar and LED lighting in its new facilities

## **ANTICIPATED COSTS OF QUALIFIED PROPERTY**

The anticipated Qualified Property purchases are listed below:

Manufacturing/Production Machinery, Equipment & Materials	\$18,500,000
Facility Buildout, Upgrades & Infrastructure Improvements	32,150,000
Logistics, Transport, Storage Systems & Related Property	1,650,000
Computers, Information Technology & Related Property	4,100,000
Design, Engineering, Research and Development Property	16,500,000
Tooling Equipment & Materials	1,150,000
Production/Design Tools, Spare & Repair Parts	900,000
Quality Control, Testing & Prototyping	4,850,000
Lab Instruments & Devices	2,700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$82,500,000</u></b>

*Note: The Qualified Property purchases reported in the Application and shown here in staff's report are estimated costs. At the termination of the master regulatory agreement a finalized project equipment list will be prepared detailing the value of the Project equipment acquired and the actual tax benefit realized pursuant to Revenue and Tax Code Section 6010.8. Variance from the costs shown in the Application and in this report may occur prior to the closing due to increased costs of certain components (of the Project) over original estimates, and other reasons. In addition, such costs may vary after closing due also to increased costs, as well as common design and equipment modifications during construction, differences in equipment due to future changes in law or regulation, or for other reasons.*

## **TIMELINE**

The Applicant states it will begin Qualified Property purchases in Q2 2020 and construction is expected to commence in Q4 2020. The Applicant anticipates to complete the Project in 2023.

## **COMPETITIVE CRITERIA SCORE**

In the event that CAEATFA receives Applications in excess of the statutory \$100 million cap for that calendar year, the order in which the Applications shall be considered in the same month will be ranked based on five Competitive Criteria.

The Applicant received 70 Competitive Criteria points as follows:

1. **Environmental Benefits (0 points)**. The Applicant's Project did not earn any Total Pollution Benefits points (i.e. did not have environmental benefits that could be monetized and scored pursuant to the Program's regulations<sup>3</sup>), therefore no points are awarded.
2. **Unemployment (0 of 50 points)**. The Applicant's Project is located in Santa Clara County, which has an average annual unemployment rate of 2.5 %. When compared

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<sup>3</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10033(c)(4)

to the statewide average annual unemployment rate, which was 4.1% in 2019, the dataset used in the Application, the Project location earned the Applicant an Unemployment Score of zero points.

3. **Job Creation (55 of 75 points).** The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of 1,979 production-related jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that approximately 54 of these jobs will be attributable to a marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE. Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned 55 points.
4. **California Headquarters (15 points).** The Applicant has a California Corporate Headquarters, therefore 15 points are awarded.
5. **Natural Disaster Relief (0 points).** The Project is not to rebuild or relocate the Applicant's Facility due to a fire, flood, storm, or earthquake identified in the state of emergency proclamation made by the California State Governor within two years of the time of application, therefore zero points are awarded.

## **PROJECT EVALUATION**

### **NET BENEFITS**

The Project received a Total Score of 3,115 points, which exceeds the required 1,000-point threshold, and a total Environmental Benefits Score of 50 points, which exceeds the 20-point threshold.

- A. **Fiscal Benefits (2,960 points).** The net present value of the total fiscal benefits over the lifetime of the Qualified Property is derived from the Applicant's sales taxes, personal income taxes paid by the firm's employees, firm taxes on profits, property taxes, and other indirect fiscal benefits of the Applicant, which amounts to \$20,416,918, resulting in a Fiscal Benefits score of 2,960 points for the Project.
- B. **Environmental Benefits (50 points).** The Project earned an Environmental Benefits Score of 50. The Applicant received points in the following categories:
  1. **Environmental Sustainability Plan (20 of 20 points).** The Applicant will implement an environmental sustainability plan for its Project that it represents seeks to reduce waste and GHG emissions.
  2. **Energy Consumption (30 of 30 points).** The Applicant represents that the Project will result in a 30% reduction in energy consumption compared to the Applicant's previous manufacturing process through the use of LED lighting and rooftop solar.

**C. Additional Benefits (105 points).** Applicants may earn additional points for their Total Score. The Applicant submitted information and received 105 additional points.

- 1. Production Jobs (55 of 75 points).** The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of 1,979 production-related jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that approximately 54 of these jobs will be attributable to a marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE. Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned 55 points.
- 2. Construction Jobs (0 of 75 points).** The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of 85 construction jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that approximately 2 of these jobs will be attributable to a marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE. Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned zero points.
- 3. Unemployment (0 of 50 points).** The Applicant's Project is located in Santa Clara County, which has an average annual unemployment rate of 2.5 %. When compared to the statewide average annual unemployment rate, which was 4.1% in 2019, the dataset used in the Application, the Project location earned the Applicant an Unemployment Score of zero points.
- 4. Research and Development Facilities (25 points).** The Applicant has verified that it has a facility located in California that performs research and development functions related to the production process existing advanced robotic surgical systems and related instruments and accessories that is the subject of this Application.
- 5. Workforce Partnerships (25 points).** The Applicant has partnerships with Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, Stanford University, UCLA, and UCSD for the purpose of training the workers at the Facility and/or for the purposes of assisting in the training of potential future workers.

## **STATUS OF PERMITS/OTHER REQUIRED APPROVALS**

According to the Applicant, all necessary building, installation, and operational permits have been secured with the City of Sunnyvale and County of Santa Clara.

## **LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

Staff has reviewed the Applicant's responses to the questions contained in the Legal Status portion of the Application. The Executive Director, in consultation with legal counsel, has

determined that the legal issues disclosed do not affect the financial viability or legal integrity of the Applicant.

### **CAEATFA FEES**

In accordance with CAEATFA Regulations,<sup>4</sup> the Applicant has paid CAEATFA an Application Fee of \$10,000 and will pay CAEATFA an Administrative Fee of up to \$330,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 20-SM027 for Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc.'s purchase of Qualified Property in an amount not to exceed \$82,500,000, anticipated to result in an approximate sales and use tax exclusion value of \$6,897,000.

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<sup>4</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10036

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MASTER  
REGULATORY AGREEMENT WITH INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC. AND ITS  
SUBSIDIARY, INTUITIVE SURGICAL OPERATIONS, INC.**

March 17, 2020

WHEREAS, the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (the “Authority” or “CAEATFA”) has received the Application of **Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and its Subsidiary, Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc.** (the “Applicant”), for financial assistance in the form of a master regulatory agreement (the “Agreement”) regarding tangible personal property utilized in an Advanced Manufacturing process or for the design, manufacture, production or assembly of Advanced Transportation Technologies or Alternative Source products, components, or systems (“Qualified Property”) as more particularly described in the staff summary and in the Applicant’s Application to the Authority (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has requested the Authority to enter into the Agreement to acquire Project equipment with an estimated cost not to exceed \$82,500,000 over a period of three years; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant believes that this form of financial assistance will enable it to avail itself of the benefits of an exclusion from sales and use taxes relative to the Qualified Property pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 6010.8; and

WHEREAS, approval of the terms of the Agreement and authority for the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or Chair of the Authority to execute the necessary documents to effectuate the Agreement is now sought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, as follows:

Section 1. The Project constitutes a “project” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(8)(B).

Section 2. The requested master regulatory agreement constitutes “financial assistance” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(6).

Section 3. The Applicant is a “participating party” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(7).

Section 4. The Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or Chair of the Authority (the “Authorized Signatories”) are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Authority to approve any changes to the Project as the Executive Director shall deem appropriate, provided that the amount of the Qualified Property to be purchased may not be increased above the amount approved by the Authority.



Section 5. The proposed form of the Agreement between the Applicant and the Authority, as filed with the Authority prior to this meeting, is hereby approved. The Authorized Signatories are hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf and in the name of the Authority, to execute, acknowledge and deliver to the Applicant the Agreement in substantially the form filed with or approved by the Authority, with such insertions, deletions or changes therein as the Authorized Signatory executing the same may require or approve, and with particular information inserted therein in substantial conformance with the staff summary and in the Applicant's Application to the Authority, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof. The Authority understands and agrees that pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the obligations of the Applicant may, under some circumstances, be carried out or assumed by a successor or assignee entity, or by an affiliate of the Applicant.

Section 6. Each of the Authorized Signatories, acting alone, is hereby authorized and directed to do any and all ministerial acts, including (without limitation) the execution and delivery of any and all documents and certificates they may deem necessary or advisable in order to consummate the Agreement and otherwise effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 7. The Applicant shall assure CAEATFA that all Qualified Property listed in the semi-annual reports pursuant to the Agreement shall be installed, maintained and operated in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

Section 8. The Agreement shall only apply to Qualified Property that the Applicant certifies will be installed, maintained and operated at facilities within the State of California.

Section 9. The adoption by the Authority of this Resolution for the Applicant shall not be referred to in any application before any governmental agency as evidence of the feasibility, practicality or suitability of the Project or in any application for any required permission or authority to acquire, construct or operate the Project.

Section 10. This Resolution is effective immediately and will remain in full force and effect unless the Regulatory Agreement, as defined in CAEATFA Regulations Section 10035(a), is not executed within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution. The Executive Director may extend the thirty days if necessary.