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**SITTRIS SOARS WITH MAJOR HEALTHCARE DESIGN.06 SCORE**  
***Bariatric Seating Product Sittris BA Garners Best of Competition in Nightingale Awards***

**Toronto, November 8, 2006** – Sittris, a new healthcare seating company that debuted at the Healthcare Design.06 conference held November 4 – 7 in Chicago, soared straight from the launch pad to take home the Nightingale Best of Competition Award for *Sittris BA*, the company's breakthrough seating solution created specifically for bariatric patients. Sponsored by *Contract* magazine in association with The Center for Health Design and Healthcare Design.06 and judged by a panel of healthcare facilities executives and interior designers, the prestigious Nightingale Product Design Awards recognize innovation that contributes to the quality of healthcare.

“Celebrating the company's introduction with such an exciting achievement highlights a fantastic start to building the Sittris brand,” said Glenn Barras, president of Sittris. “With Sittris BA at the forefront of our new product line, Sittris aims to fully address both comfort and infection control needs for patients, healthcare providers and hospital visitors alike.”

Obesity is a serious, chronic disease affecting more than 25 percent of American adults (an increase of 75% over the last 20 years)<sup>1</sup>, and an estimated 23 percent of Canadian adults<sup>2</sup>, underscoring the growing need for services, care and products developed specifically for this patient population. *Sittris BA* uniquely addresses the specific seating needs of today's bariatric patient: skin care, infection control, breathing ability, and dignity.

**Built With Patients and Providers in Mind**

Designed for Sittris by Helen Kerr of Toronto-based Kerr & Company, *Sittris BA* is the result of extensive research with bariatric patients to better understand their specific seating needs. Sittris' bariatric seating solution is designed to accommodate the size and shape of patients from 350 to more than 500 lbs.

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The chair's sculpted lumbar area, which accommodates excess skin, allows full access to the patient's back and torso, helping prevent patient and caregiver injuries during lifting or seated care, and enabling access for patient treatment. Further, the lumbar area and fabric options promote airflow around the patient to address common bariatric skin problems caused by sweating. In addition, *Sittris BA*'s arm height, flatter seat pan and slightly sloping chair back provide comfort and relieve pressure for larger patients.

Possibly the most integral aspect of the product's design, *Sittris BA* offers few discernible style differences from other Sittris seating products. Its sleek shape helps maintain patient dignity by avoiding the stereotype associated with the chair being intended for bariatric patients.

### **Designed to be Clean and Stay Clean**

The upholstery fabric technology available for the Sittris line accommodates the specific challenges of healthcare environments. Sustain and Microcare® fabric options both prevent microbial growth and are impermeable to fluids, while easily cleanable with just soap and water. Unlike other healthcare textiles, Microcare features germ-killing Nano-Silver technology, a triple antibacterial mechanism integrated into the fabric rather than a topically applied treatment, and is stain, soil and liquid repellent. Sustain, an antimicrobial, non-PVC synthetic leather, is stain-resistant, impervious to liquids, and free of chlorine, bromine and plasticizers, which prevents off-gassing.

Offering maximum cleanability and infection control through innovative upholstery solutions and fabric treatments, Sittris products are rooted in a results-driven promise: clean seating that stays clean. While direct access to proven Keilhauer seating design expertise affords Sittris with the know-how to create highly durable products offering the most comfortable user experience imaginable, the combination of cleanliness, comfort and durability makes Sittris products the highest quality healthcare seating available today.

### **About Sittris**

Introduced by Keilhauer in 2006, Sittris is a separate, privately owned company that designs and manufactures seating solutions specifically for the unique demands of healthcare environments. With a full range of products for patients, visitors and staff, Sittris maintains a core principle: clean seating that stays clean. For more information, contact Sittris at 1-866-701-4673 or visit [www.sittris.com](http://www.sittris.com).

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<sup>1</sup> The American Society for Bariatric Surgery ([www.asbs.org](http://www.asbs.org))

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Community Health Survey 2004: Nutrition, Health Reports Vol. 17 No. 3 ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca))