HOUSTON (March 3, 2004) – MicroMed Technology, Inc., a global leader in miniaturized heart pump technology, announced today that it has received Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) approval to provide transplant centers with the DeBakey VAD Child heart pump, designed to improve blood flow for children aged five to 16 who are awaiting a heart transplant.

“After so many years of development in the VAD industry, we are very proud and excited that we will be able to help support children who have devastating heart diseases,” said Betty Silverstein Russell, MicroMed executive vice president. The DeBakey VAD Child utilizes the technology of the implanted adult pump and further miniaturizes it for use in children. This is the first VAD approved by the FDA for use in children. Until now, the usual method of circulatory support in children was a heart-lung bypass setup in the intensive care unit. The new VAD will not replace the bypass needed for primary lung failure.

“This represents our intent to continue to add value to the mechanical heart support sector,” said Dallas Anderson, MicroMed president and CEO. “MicroMed has FDA approval in the U.S. for two multi-center adult pivotal trials for ventricular assist use, as a Bridge-to-Transplant and for Destination Therapy. The new pediatric centers contribute an important area of experience not previously addressed in VAD development. For the first time, recovering children will be able to move from the intensive care unit to a more comfortable setting.”

Designed in collaboration with NASA, the Baylor College of Medicine and Drs. Michael DeBakey and George Noon, the DeBakey VAD is intended for end-stage heart failure patients who can no longer provide necessary blood flow with their native heart. The DeBakey VAD system has been awarded the CE mark for commercial distribution in Europe, with over 240 VADs implanted worldwide. The implanted device is the size of a “C” cell battery, is silent, and weighs less than four ounces.

About MicroMed
MicroMed Technology, Inc, is a privately held company that develops products for patients with end-stage, congestive heart failure (CHF). MicroMed recently passed an FDA GMP inspection in anticipation of its approval for DeBakey VAD pediatric manufacture and use. MicroMed’s headquarters and ISO 9001-certified Class 10,000 clean-room manufacturing facility is located in Houston, Texas. For more information, visit www.micromedtech.com.