

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C.20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: January 3, 2006
(Date of earliest event reported)

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.

(exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation
or organization)

000-30713

Commission File Number

77-0416458

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

950 Kifer Road

Sunnyvale, California94086

(Address of Principal executive offices, including zip code)

(408) 523-2100

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02. Appointment of Principal Officer.

On January 5, 2006 Intuitive Surgical, Inc (the “Company”) announced the appointment of John F. Runkel, 50, as Senior Vice President and General Counsel effective January 3, 2006. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Press Release issued by Intuitive Surgical, Inc., dated January 5, 2006

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.

Date: January 5, 2006

By /s/ LONNIE M. SMITH
Name: Lonnie M. Smith
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
<u>99.1</u>	Press Release issued by Intuitive Surgical, Inc., dated January 5, 2006

Intuitive Surgical Names John F. Runkel as Senior Vice President, General Counsel

SUNNYVALE, CALIF. January 05, 2006 - Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (NASDAQ: ISRG), the industry leader in surgical robotics, today announced the addition of John F. (Rick) Runkel to its management team as Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

Mr. Runkel joins Intuitive Surgical from VISX, Incorporated, a leader in laser vision correction technology, where he served as Senior Vice President, Business Development, General Counsel and Secretary. Prior to joining VISX, Mr. Runkel was a partner in the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, where he practiced law for 17 years and served as Managing Partner of the firm's San Francisco office.

Commenting on the announcement, Lonnie Smith, Chairman and CEO of Intuitive Surgical, said, "We are very pleased to have Rick join the senior leadership team. He brings an impressive background and a wealth of experience in corporate law."

Mr. Runkel received his law and undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles.

About Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

Intuitive Surgical develops, manufactures and markets robotic technologies designed to improve clinical outcomes and help patients return more quickly to active and productive lives. The company's mission is to extend the benefits of minimally invasive surgery to the broadest possible base of patients. More information is available at www.intuitivesurgical.com and www.davinciprostatectomy.com. Intuitive Surgical — Taking surgical precision beyond the limits of the human hand.™

About the da Vinci® Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is a sophisticated robotic platform designed to enable complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. The *da Vinci* System consists of an ergonomic surgeon's console, a patient-side cart with four interactive robotic arms, a high-performance vision system and proprietary EndoWrist® instruments. Powered by state-of-the-art robotic technology, the *da Vinci* System is designed to scale, filter and seamlessly translate the surgeon's hand movements into more precise movements of the EndoWrist instruments. The net result is an intuitive interface with breakthrough surgical capabilities. By providing surgeons with superior visualization, enhanced dexterity, greater precision and ergonomic comfort, the *da Vinci* Surgical System makes it possible for more surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures involving complex dissection or reconstruction. This ultimately raises the standard of care for complex surgeries, translating into numerous potential patient benefits, including less pain, a shorter recovery and quicker return to normal daily activities.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Any forward-looking statement is subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Intuitive Surgical's latest Annual Report. Actual results may differ materially from the anticipated results described. Intuitive Surgical undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements to reflect actual events or circumstances that occur after the date of this press release.

Intuitive®, *da Vinci*®, InSite® and EndoWrist® are registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical, Inc.
www.intuitivesurgical.com www.davinciprostatectomy.com
