

Bye, robot - J&J, Vicarious and Titan downsize



[Elizabeth Cairns](#)

All of medtech is having to deal with tough economic times at the moment, but surgical robotics companies seem to be having a harder time than most. This week Johnson & Johnson disclosed the impending redundancies of hundreds of workers from various sites in California, including 292 from its Auris Health subsidiary, maker of the Monarch robotic endoscopy system, and 47 from Verb Surgical, source of the [much-delayed Ottawa complex surgery robot](#). In this J&J is following the lead set by Vicarious Surgical, which at its fourth-quarter earnings call admitted that it would reduce its workforce by 14% - around 23 employees. Vicarious came to market via a Spac deal, and [few of the companies that followed this route have done well](#). Even Vicarious, though, is doing better than Titan Medical. Titan has [been in trouble for years](#), and laid off 48 employees - nearly three quarters of its workforce - in early February; a few days later it canned four members of its senior leadership team. None of this was enough, however, and today the company was [delisted from Nasdaq](#).

Selected major surgical robots

Company	Robot	Status
Intuitive Surgical	Da Vinci Xi	FDA-approved Apr 2014
	Da Vinci X	FDA-cleared May 2017
	Da Vinci SP	FDA-cleared Apr 2014
Asensus Surgical (formerly Transenterix)	Senhance	FDA-cleared Oct 2017
CMR Surgical	Versius	CE-marked Mar 2019; US approval poss 2023
Avatera Medical	Avatera	CE-marked Nov 2019
Medtronic	Hugo	CE-marked Oct 2021, US approval poss 2023
Johnson & Johnson	Ottava	Approval possible 2026 (delayed from 2024)
Vicarious Surgical	Vicarious Surgical System	In development
Titan Medical	Sport	Approval repeatedly delayed

Source: Evaluate Medtech & company websites.

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