Energy • Life Sciences • Techmedia iti

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

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ITI TECHMEDIA INVESTS £7.9M IN R&D PROGRAMME TO AID CHRONIC WOUND CARE

New technology set to improve patient care

ITI Techmedia today announced its latest research and development (R&D) Programme. It will develop technology to aid healthcare clinicians with wound infection diagnosis and the management of chronic wounds. The technology is set to enable wound care therapies that will significantly improve patients' quality of life and reduce associated healthcare costs.

ITI Techmedia, the organisation which develops market-driven intellectual property for the benefit of the Scottish economy, will invest a total of £7.9m in the three and a half year programme, the ninth R&D Programme of its portfolio to date.

The R&D Programme will demonstrate how the technology will be applied to diabetes-related chronic wounds (e.g. diabetic foot ulcers) but the technology platform is intended to be applicable to other major wound categories, and other non-human medical applications, such as veterinary and bio-hazard detection for homeland security.

An automated platform for chronic wound diagnosis is expected to address a global market opportunity which is estimated between £1.4bn and £2.8bn by 2017. The opportunity has been evaluated by health economists on behalf of ITI Techmedia and is expected to reap the following benefits:

- Reduction in the time taken to heal chronic wounds
- Increase in the quality of life of patients
- Minimise the incidence of serious wound infection
- Reduction in the incidence of lower limb amputation

Currently clinicians accomplish wound diagnosis through visual inspection of wounds – a process which has remained broadly the same for centuries. Thus there is no objective qualitative and quantitative data available at the point of care to make rapid diagnostic decisions. Diagnostic tests typically require a wound fluid sample to be sent to a central lab with a turnaround time on results of 24 hours or longer. ITI Techmedia aims to create a technology platform that will enable the creation of an easy-to-use, portable medical device that will dramatically increase the efficiency of this process.

The Programme is benefiting from input and expertise from two leading specialists in wound healing. Mr Stuart Baird, Consultant at the Southern General Hospital and Head of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Glasgow Caledonian University will act as a Programme Advisor, as will Professor Keith Harding, Head of Cardiff University's Department of Wound Healing. Professor Harding welcomes the initiative saying "Diabetic foot disease is surprisingly the most expensive part of managing diabetes today. In an era where diabetes is reaching pandemic proportions any intervention that leads to better prevention, diagnosis or management of diabetic foot complications is to be welcomed. Many clinicians in routine clinical practice see patients with diabetic foot ulcers. Their biggest challenge is to know exactly what is present within the wound when these patients are seen and how best to manage complications affecting healing. Research and development such as this, which aims to improve the accuracy of diagnosis and the efficacy of treatment, will unquestionably improve standards of practice and patient well-being".

ITI Techmedia will engage the services of a number of R&D providers over the lifetime of the programme, reflecting the scope and depth of the technology and the research and development required. At this time, the confirmed R&D providers are: D3 Technologies Ltd, Edinburgh University Division for Pathway Medicine and Mologic.

Terry Hurley, Managing Director of ITI Techmedia, commented: "We have already interviewed over 400 wound care specialists in the UK, USA, India and Germany and they have highlighted the critical need for solutions that improve wound diagnosis and management. We have identified world-class expertise in our R&D Providers and we believe this is an excellent opportunity to apply technology to significantly improve patient care. Scotland is well served to exploit this opportunity and multiple organisations have already expressed commercial interest in the resulting technology. As always however, we remain eager to engage with any other individual or organisation with an interest in this opportunity."

Regarding the announcement, Enterprise Minister Jim Mather said: "I welcome this significant R&D project, which demonstrates the breadth of expertise and excellence we have in the Scottish workforce. Innovative investment projects of this kind can help to increase sustainable economic growth and position the Scottish economy for a stronger recovery."

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Notes to Editor

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About ITI Techmedia
ITI Techmedia is a commercial organisation focused on driving sustainable economic growth in Scotland, through the ownership of commercially targeted R&D programmes that deliver world-

class intellectual assets. It identifies technologies required to address future global market opportunities, then funds and manages R&D Programmes and the subsequent commercial exploitation of new intellectual property (IP).

Further information is available on the website: www.ititechmedia.com

About D3 Technologies Ltd
D3 Technologies Ltd is a fast-growing pioneer in trace level detection technologies based on the exploitation of Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) and Surface Enhanced Resonance Raman Scattering (SERRS). Formed in 2007 by combining world-class nanometrology expertise from the University of Strathclyde with unique Klarite® substrate technology, D3 Technologies is applying its novel techniques to a diverse range of fields including medical diagnostics, analytical applications, security and bio-defence, and forensic science. Based at purpose-built laboratories and offices in Glasgow, Scotland, the company is part of the Renishaw Group, a world-leader in engineering, medical device and spectroscopy technologies.

Further information is available on the website: http://www.d3technologies.co.uk

About Edinburgh University Division for Pathway Medicine
The central goal of the Division of Pathway Medicine, a research centre in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, is to integrate post-genomic science with medicine in order to provide a better mechanism-based understanding of disease processes. This will provide the basis for the development of new medical innovations for the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, which the Division is committed to extending to the developing world.

Further information is available on the website: http://www.pathwaymedicine.ed.ac.uk/

About Mologic
Mologic is a biotechnology research and development company with a focus on diagnostics and both antibody-based and enzyme-based therapies. The company offers an unusual blend of innovation, creativity and capability, together with a track-record of success, experience and scientific rigour. In the field of diagnostics, the company develops complete diagnostic technologies for partners, as well as specific components or approaches that enable diagnostics to function in ways not previously possible. The common, unifying scientific theme is based on understanding and manipulation of the molecular logic of biological systems.

Mologic is already active in the field of chronic wounds and dermatology, undertaking contract R&D for advanced wound healing and skin care products, as well as leading the field with its own new brand of wound diagnostics. Beyond wound care, Mologic has ongoing R&D activities in the related themes of Oncology, Women's Health and Infection, together with a programme of innovation in disruptive therapeutic and diagnostic technology platforms, based on self-organising molecular systems (SOMS).

Further information is available on the website: http://www.mologic.co.uk

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