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Sphere Medical Wins DTI Exceptional Development Project Award.

Sphere Medical, the Cambridge based developer of the Proxima System, a multi-parametric microanalyser for real-time analysis of blood chemistry, disease markers and therapeutic drugs in critically ill patients, has been awarded an Exceptional Development Project Award from the United Kingdom's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The £500,000 grant is the maximum possible, of which only a few are awarded each year. The award will be used for the further development of Sphere's online blood parameter analyser for critical care patients that is expected to be launched on the world markets in late 2006.

The Proxima System sits on the patient's wrist and uses Sphere's microsensor platform to measure a wide range of essential medical parameters such as blood gases, disease markers and therapeutic drugs on a single silicon chip. The functionality of the Proxima System will significantly increase the available data from which doctors prescribe life saving therapy and will do so in near real time, giving clinicians the ability to respond rapidly to changing conditions in their seriously ill patients.

Products also under development include devices to monitor a variety of drugs and disease markers. Drug monitoring at the point of care will allow doctors to maintain the plasma concentration of therapeutic agents within the required range, avoiding toxicity from too high concentrations and ineffectiveness from too low a dose. The ability to monitor critical disease markers in real time will help clinicians to keep abreast of disease development in patients who, for instance, have had a heart attack or a stroke.

Dr. Stuart Hendry, Sphere Medical's CEO said: "We are delighted to have received this Award from the DTI, and we look forward to launching our first products in late 2006. We are confident the Proxima System will significantly contribute to improved patient care and outcomes here in the United Kingdom and around the world, and we are grateful for the endorsement and support of the DTI in this endeavour."