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Sphere Medical Holding PLC

Sphere Medical and Cranfield University Announce Investment by the Technology Strategy Board for the Development of Point-of-Care Sensors to Improve Drug Delivery

The medical profession is increasingly discovering that in critically ill patients more frequent monitoring of the patient condition results ultimately in improved patient care. The ability to monitor trends and quickly pick up changes in the condition of the patient is a powerful aid for the clinician. Moreover, being able to monitor important parameters, such as the blood concentration of certain therapeutic drugs, frequently and in real time, without increasing the workload and cost of therapy, is expected to result in new treatment regimes in intensive care medicine and may ultimately lead to better patient outcomes.

In order to address this significant clinical need and market opportunity, Sphere Medical and Cranfield University are collaborating to develop novel disposable sensors for the real-time monitoring of clinically important therapeutic drugs, which currently cannot be measured at the Point-of-Care. The device will enable clinicians to control better the delivery of the drug, detect accumulation or changes in the clearance rate of the drug, and provide early detection of faults in the drug delivery system. Providing clinical information, such as drug concentrations, in real time for intensive care patients has the potential to improve therapy, save lives and significantly reduce the cost of care.

This £600,000 project to develop Point-of-Care sensors to improve drug delivery is being spearheaded by Sphere Medical Holding PLC, the Cambridge, UK, based medical microtech company, in collaboration with Cranfield University. The partners are pleased to announce that the Technology Strategy Board is to support the development work with an investment of over £300,000.

Commenting on the Technology Strategy Board's support for the project, lead technologist for bioscience and healthcare, Zahid Latif, said: "This is an excellent example of an innovative business and a top-class university working together to develop an important new product. The outcome of this project has the potential to make major improvements in patient care, both in the UK and worldwide. We are delighted to offer our support."

Dr Stuart Hendry, Sphere Medical's CEO, said "We are delighted to have received this support from the TSB to assist Sphere together with Cranfield Health in the development of a novel monitoring product that has the potential to improve the economics of critical care and benefit millions of patient's world wide".

Dr Kal Karim, Lecturer in Organic and Computational Chemistry, Cranfield Biotechnology Centre, Cranfield Health, said: "This collaboration will give us an excellent opportunity to develop strategies that will serve as a blue-print for the continued and sustainable development of reliable and cost-effective sensors to advance patient care".

The investment by the Technology Strategy Board has been awarded as part of a matched funding project.
The project will deliver sensor prototypes which can be readily developed into marketable products.

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Notes to Editor

About Sphere Medical
Sphere Medical PLC is developing highly innovative monitoring products to provide clinical and economic benefits in the critical care environment, based on the company's proprietary technology. The products allow minimally invasive, real time measurement of clinical chemistry parameters and therapeutic drug concentrations, giving healthcare professionals the information they require to more effectively manage therapy and optimise patient outcomes. Sphere Medical was founded in 2002 and is based in Cambridge, UK. For further information please see www.spheremedical.com

About Cranfield Health
Cranfield Health, incorporating Cranfield Postgraduate Medical School, focuses on health research, education and consultancy. It combines science and technology, human factors and management to provide new solutions for the Health sector. The School draws upon Cranfield's roots in medical physics, food quality and nutrition, bioscience and related diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

About Cranfield Biotechnology Centre, Cranfield Health
Cranfield Biotechnology Centre (CBC) in Cranfield Health headed by Professor Sergey Piletsky is internationally recognised for its world-leading research in the field of synthetic receptors, including computational design of functional and "smart" materials, their synthesis and their application in separation, sensing and drug development. For further information please see http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/health/researchareas/smartmaterials/

About the Technology Strategy Board
The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). For further information please visit www.innovateuk.org.

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