

News Release

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Generics' Spin-Out Sphere Medical Ltd Signs Deal with Cranfield University

Generics' spin-out, Sphere Medical Ltd, has signed a deal with Cranfield University to exploit jointly Cranfield's extensive Molecularly Imprinted Polymer (MIP) patent portfolio in the field of clinical diagnostics.

Sphere Medical Ltd, based in Cambridge, develops and manufactures microsensors for use in the medical devices industry. Exploiting recent developments in Microsystem Technology [MST) and nanotechnology, Sphere's current product portfolio includes sensors to measure clinically important parameters such as oxygen and carbon dioxide as well as metabolites like glucose and lactate. It has established a number of relationships with global players to supply its technology into a variety of clinical applications.

MIPs are an emerging class of receptors that mimic the selective properties of biomolecules like antibodies and enzymes but are made from plastic. Hence, MIPs avoid many of the shortcomings associated the use of biomolecules in diagnostics such as stability and cost. The ability to tailor the properties of MIPs to the exact requirements of any particular system means that sensors previously impossible or impractical to produce by conventional means will become a commercial reality.

The use of MIPs in conjunction with Sphere's proprietary microsensor technology will form a new benchmark of miniature, cheap and robust, diagnostic devices with the potential to revolutionise clinical practice.

Professor Tony Turner, Head of Cranfield University at Silsoe, reports: "These new synthetic receptors herald a step change in the diagnostics industry and Cranfield is pleased to have secured a partner who can rapidly realise the potential of this leading

edge science. Cranfield's renowned twin strengths of cutting edge technology and commercial awareness have been the bedrock of this growing relationship."

Dr Stuart Hendry, CEO of Sphere Medical and Cranfield alumnus, said: "We are delighted to have signed this deal with a world-leading institute such as Cranfield. This partnership gives us access to a very powerful technology. We are convinced that this will be a long and productive relationship."

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Notes for Editors:

SPHERE MEDICAL LTD

Sphere was founded in September 2002 to exploit commercially a micro-machined silicon sensing technology originally developed by Siemens. This technology, which Sphere will develop and manufacture, has applications in the field of blood gas analysis, molecular diagnostics and environmental analysis.

The MST silicon sensing technology means that a number of separate chemical sensors can be combined on a single silicon chip, along with integrated electronic drive circuitry. This technology will enable a new generation of diagnostic and analytical products that give real-time measurements at an affordable cost, so reducing therapeutic decision times. Sphere now owns a total of 17 patents that have been transferred from Siemens and Generics.

THE GENERICS GROUP

The Generics Group (Generics) is a leading integrated technology consulting, development and investment organisation, with an international reputation for successfully commercialising emerging science and technology.

Generics invests in and develops technologies that underpin the future of the widest range of industries. Its key areas of expertise include: engineering, materials, telecommunications, life sciences, business innovation and electronics.

Generics' facilities include state-of-the-art laboratories and are located in Europe in Cambridge, Frankfurt, Zürich, Switzerland and Stockholm; and in Boston and Baltimore in the USA. Generics has over 250 employees, of which 170 are high-calibre technology professionals.

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