

Title: Neotherix Burton Mail Online Article

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Grant helps firm develop revolutionary 'fake skin'

A BURTON-BASED firm has secured a grant of almost £500,000 to develop a medicine to help repair wounds such as those suffered by skin cancer patients.



Lorien Engineering Solutions, based on the Centrum 100 development, has been part of a consortium of firms which has developed EktoTherix, a bioresorbable 'tissue scaffold' material that assists in patient tissue repair and regeneration.

The firm has been working with Neotherix Limited and Smith & Nephew on the project.

The treatment avoids the need to either graft donor skin tissue from elsewhere on the patient or have an extended healing process with regular dressing changes and repeat visits to the clinic, and the accompanying increased risk of infection.

It will benefit the NHS by providing a convenient and cost-effective treatment for dermatologists and surgeons.

The consortium has now secured 50 per cent funding for the £414,000 project from the Technology Strategy Board to take the therapy into the final development stage of clinical trials.

It follows an earlier feasibility project grant made in 2009 and a developing therapeutics project grant in 2010.

Lorien is assisting in the programme management and the steps needed for a development product to be approved for the first human clinical trials that are scheduled during 2013.

In particular, the firm is leading the work to bring the manufacturing operation to the standards that will be required by regulatory authorities.

Life sciences director Bill Treddenick said: "This new grant award is fantastic news for the project as the product has the potential to greatly improve patient outcomes and reduce public healthcare costs.

"Lorien is delighted to be part of such a successful consortium of companies working in the regenerative medicine arena, and in particular to be able to continue our involvement with our colleagues at Neotherix and Smith & Nephew following completion of earlier product development."