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Lorien wins £345k backing for cancer treatment idea

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By James Reed - Assistant Editor



Mike Raxworthy of Neotherix

A CONSORTIUM of companies developing a material that helps repair wounds left by operations to remove cancerous skin cells has won a £345,000 grant to take it forward.

The group believes the market for the material, known as EktoTherix, could be worth as much as £360m a year.

Lichfield-based Lorien Engineering Solutions is working with York company Neotherix and Smith & Nephew Advanced Management.

The consortium received the grant from the Technology Strategy Board to move it to the next stage of development.

Lorien Engineering Solutions, based in Lichfield, is overseeing the manufacturing process for Ektotherix

which provides a scaffold around which the patient's skin can heal.

Bill Treddenick, life sciences director at Lorien, said: "This grant award is fantastic news for the project as the product has the potential to greatly improve patient outcomes during non-melanoma skin cancer excisions."

Mike Raxworthy, chief executive of Neotherix, added: "This Technology Strategy Board funded project will continue the development of the product towards full commercialisation."

"On completion of this project, our aim is to conduct a clinical evaluation of the product, with an estimated market launch in late 2012."

"The estimated global market for this product is £360m per annum."