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### Neotherix wins backing for treatment idea

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By James Reed - Assistant Editor



Mike Raxworthy

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.

York-based Neotherix is working with Lorien Engineering Solutions and Smith & Nephew Advanced Management and the consortium has received a grant from the Technology Strategy Board to move it to the next stage of development.

Mike Raxworthy, chief executive of Neotherix, said: "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."

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.

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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."