



UK Government Grant for Skin Wound Re-Generation Treatment

RAFT - the UK charity carrying out pioneering work in the treatment of major wounds and skin traumas - is delighted to announce a collaboration between three UK organisations with world-leading technology in the field of skin regeneration.

RAFT, Altrika Ltd (Ilika's healthcare-focused subsidiary) and the Cardiff University have secured a grant from the Technology Strategy Board to bring together their technology and expertise to develop a treatment for full thickness skin wounds. This market is currently worth over £6.0 billion.

Existing technologies in the field of skin wound treatment have shown some success, but there is no universally accepted solution to the problem of hard-to-heal wounds. This is largely due to the delicate nature of these wounds and the inability of the existing products to cope with a range of conditions in which they must work. Many of the products currently available are prohibitively expensive, further preventing their broader uptake. It is estimated that there are nearly half a million unhealed chronic skin wounds in the UK alone.

This programme brings together RAFT's research into dermal scaffolds, Altrika's market-leading polymer surface technology which forms the basis of its Myskin® and Cryoskin® burns treatment products, and the micro-engineering capabilities of the Manufacturing Engineering Centre (MEC) at Cardiff University. The programme aims to develop a more robust, full thickness solution which is both more effective and more cost effective than existing solutions.

Commenting on the collaboration of organisations, Leonor Stjepic, Chief Executive of the RAFT Institute, said: "The SmartMatrix project is a key development for RAFT and this grant will allow us to take it several steps further. We are pleased to be working with both the MEC and Altrika, whose technology, clinical and market experience in this field will prove invaluable as the project progresses to market."

Ilika's Chief Executive, Graeme Purdy, said: "We are delighted to have secured this grant from the Technology Strategy Board. Myskin® and Cryoskin® are already in successful commercial production; combining this technology with the SmartMatrix scaffold will allow us to enhance our commitment to the treatment of problematic wounds.

RAFT is looking forward to working with Altrika's team, who are committed to meeting some of society's greatest challenges through the development of new materials.

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