



Funding Helps to Shed Light on Medical Research

3rd May 2006: A pioneering new technology has been given a cash boost to light the way for a number of revolutionary medical treatments.

Biotransformations Limited, located at the Centre for Life in Newcastle, has developed the first medical process that uses light to stimulate the body's immune responses to help fight diseases. To help strengthen the management team in preparation for a financing round, advance this product into clinical trials and develop a commercial basis for the company's future development, the firm has received a cash injection of £90,000 from the Proof of Concept (POC) fund, managed by North Star Equity Investors.

This investment builds on a £500,000 project with the Centre for Excellence in Life Sciences (CELS), completed in March 2006, to advance the technology behind this new process.

Dr Alex Buchan, from the Proof of Concept Fund, commented: "The POC fund is designed to provide early stage venture finance to support start-up businesses in science and technology.

"By providing equity capital, we are aiming to create a new climate for technology investment in the North East and help develop concepts to the point where conventional funding becomes available. Biotransformations is exactly the type of high technology business we are looking to support as the potential for this new treatment is tremendous."

The patented system works by using light to activate antibodies to kill harmful cells when they are located at a specific site, like a virus or tumour. Usually for

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antibodies to work they must directly target the affected area, but by cloaking the antibody in a compound sensitive to light scientists at Biotransformations can trigger the antibody only at exactly the correct place in the body.

The system is expected to operate with the use of existing light sources, such as dental probes currently employed for curing dental adhesives.

Professor Colin Self - Chief Scientific Officer from Biotransformations added: "By increasing antibody specificity, we can help make treatments more effective, imparting accurate drug targeting in a wide variety of cancers.

"We are delighted to have gained further investment as it enables us to develop the technology further to take it into other applications and clinical indications, whilst also developing our business to build shareholder value and attract future investment."

For more information about POC funding, you can visit www.northstarei.com or contact North Star Equity Investors on 0191 211 2300.

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