

Media Release

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\$3.7m medical device manufacturing boost for South Australia and Victoria

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) welcomes the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science announcement that manufacturers in South Australia and Victoria will share in \$31.6 million as part of the Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme.

MTAA is pleased the Government recognises the importance of medical technology industry with three companies sharing in \$3,739,310 million:

- Ellex Medical Pty Ltd (\$2,500,000) will invest in advanced equipment and systems as part of an expansion of its ophthalmic medical device manufacturing capacity, also involving relocation from Adelaide, SA to new premises in Salisbury, SA.
- MiniFAB (Aust) Pty Ltd (\$664,310) will expand its manufacturing capacity at Scoresby, Victoria to provide commercial volumes of medical diagnostic consumables with built-in bio-assays and molecular reagents, and leverage research and product development capabilities.
- Universal Biosensors Pty Ltd (\$575,000) will invest in the automation of four quality-critical manufacturing processes, as well as in storage environment controls, for the manufacturing of diagnostic test strips used in point-of-care-testing of blood clotting time, at its facility in Rowville, Victoria.

Susi Tegen, Chief Executive of the Medical Technology Association of Australia said:

“With the closure of the auto-industry next year the advanced manufacturing skills in both South Australia and Victoria should seriously look to the opportunities of the medical technology (MedTech) industry.

“Partnership is alive in the MedTech industry with home-grown companies like Ellex Medical evolving from a small scientific laser company to an international company with, more than 30,000 Ellex ophthalmic laser and ultrasound systems in use worldwide.

“More than half of Australian MedTech companies began as start-ups. The industry has experienced rapid growth in recent years, with 40 per cent of all medical device businesses established since 2000.

“The MedTech industry employs more than 19,000 people and is highly skilled with 52 per cent of employees having tertiary qualification and 25 per cent a postgraduate qualification.

“With an ageing population and 50 per cent of the world’s population in the Asia Pacific region there is growing export opportunities.

“Our Deloitte Access Economics’ *Medical Technology Workforce and Skills Review* suggest the need for closer collaboration between Governments, academia and industry to take advantage of these opportunities. Further, our *MedTech Blueprint* report calls for the development and implementation of a National MedTech Blueprint.

“MTAA believes Australia has many of the right attributes to growing a strong domestic MedTech industry but we must take advantage of the changing economic circumstances and not waste it.”

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Did you know?

- Medical devices account for only 14 cents in every dollar paid in reimbursements by private health insurers.
- Unlike the private health insurance industry that has increased premiums by 35% since 2010, the medical device industry has kept costs down.
- The medical device industry is highly skilled and employs over 19,000 people, with over 50% of employees having a tertiary qualification, and 21% having a postgraduate qualification.
- The medical technology industry is a significant potential growth industry for Australia and currently employs more than 19,000 people and generates approximately \$12 billion in revenue.
- More than half of Australian medical device companies have grown from start-ups. The industry has experienced rapid growth in recent years, with 40% of all medical device businesses established since 2000.
- The medical technology industry is a highly skilled innovative industry and active participant in the Government Innovation Agenda.

About MTAA

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) is the national association representing companies in the medical technology industry. MTAA aims to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology are delivered effectively to provide better health outcomes to the Australian community.

MTAA represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability. The range of medical technology is diverse with products ranging from familiar items such as syringes and wound dressings, through to high-technology implanted devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators, hip and other orthopaedic implants. Products also include hospital and diagnostic imaging equipment such as ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

MTAA members distribute the majority of the non-pharmaceutical products used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in Australia. Our member companies also play a vital role in providing healthcare professionals with essential education and training to ensure safe and effective use of medical technology.