



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA STATEMENT

Verity Firth MP

Minister for Women

Minister for Science and Medical Research

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water

Embargoed until 7pm on Monday, 9 July 2007

HEALTH MONITORING TECHNOLOGY WINS NSW GOVERNMENT AWARD

State Plan Priority P1: Increased Business Investment

A web-based healthcare system that allows patients to receive expert medical supervision in their homes has won the NSW Government's 2007 BioFirst Commercialisation Award.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Verity Firth said tonight's BioFirst Commercialisation Award ceremony highlighted the international successes achieved by locally-based life science companies, with assistance from the NSW Government's BioBusiness programs.

"This year's winner is MedCare Systems of Rosebery for the international success it has achieved with its innovative TeleMedCare service," said Ms Firth.

By using a web-based system, the TeleMedCare service allows health professionals to monitor and manage chronic diseases, such as congestive heart failure, lung disease or diabetes, without the patient having to leave their home or residential care facilities.

The system can be used to remind patients to take medications or perform regular checks on a range of clinical measurements such as electrocardiogram (ECG) tests, temperature, weight, lung function and heart rate.

Data is collected and returned to a central point for easy access by a care team.

"For patients, this innovation enables them to better understand and self-manage their health or illness, reducing the amount of time they need to spend in hospital," said Ms Firth.

"For health authorities and clinicians, it helps overcome problems faced by limited human resources, reduces response times, and will improve the management of health cost by reducing hospital admissions and rehabilitation periods."

Ms Firth said MedCare Systems has recorded outstanding international progress with its technology and now operates globally, with licensees in the United Kingdom and soon New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates and Europe.

“MedCare Systems has also secured a major investor in the United Kingdom and is engaged in the commercialisation and marketing of its products around the world,” said Ms Firth.

“The company also has a five year research management and intellectual property and royalty agreement with the University of NSW covering its continuing R&D activities.”

Ms Firth said the runner-up in the 2007 BioFirst Commercialisation Awards was Protech Research Pty Ltd.

“Protech Research is a biochemical development company that sells and licenses intellectual property, providing unique technical or cost advantages to the global food, beverage, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries,” said Ms Firth.

“Protech Research technologies include products that reduce salt by 30 per cent in dried consumer foods, control carcinogens in baked foods and deliver anti-ageing compounds in skin care.”

Protech Research's customers include global multinationals like PepsiCo and it also has joint venture and research agreements with global companies, universities and industry bodies.

To help them achieve further international expansion, cash prizes of \$30,000 were awarded to the winner and runner-up by Merck Sharpe and Dohme, and the North of England Inward Investment Agency respectively.

The two companies will also receive the following in-kind prizes:

- Expert advisory services on tax and business structuring from PricewaterhouseCoopers;
- Expert advisory services in relation to intellectual property protection and commercialisation from Allens Arthur Robinson;
- Expert advisory services on capital markets issues from eG Capital;
- Expert advisory services on technology commercialisation and/or business development from Invetech;
- Expert advisory services in media and public relations from Buchan.

The other finalists for the 2007 Award were Corbett Research, Fermiscan, G2 Therapies, and Ventracor.

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