News Release for Immediate Use

NEW STRATEGY PAYS FOR INNOVATION PARK

Stirling University Innovation Park's (SUIP) strategy of attracting companies engaged in developing leading edge products in healthcare, the environment and science has been given a major boost.

Three young companies working at the cutting edge of research and development in these fields have set up operations on Innovation Park.

Their recent arrival underlines the growing reputation of the Innovation Park as a dynamic business location for enterprising and ambitious R&D companies.

The new arrivals are involved in developing, robotic systems for the dairy and bottling industries, software that will help drive the fight against climate change and non-toxic anti-parasitic therapies for healthcare and veterinary markets.

EctoPharma, headed by Chief Executive Dr Magnus Nicolson, was recently successful in concluding a £2million round of financing led by Braveheart Ventures Ltd and including TRI Capital, Lochside (International) Investments Ltd, Scottish Co-Investment Fund and existing shareholders.

The investment will finance the Phase 3 clinical trials of its lead product KindaPed™, which is a new treatment for head lice, and other product development.

The technology for human and veterinary anti-parasitic products being developed by EctoPharma is set to compete in global markets estimated to be worth £1.2 billion a year.

Previously based in Edinburgh Dr. Nicolson explained the move to Stirling: "We wanted to be part of a dynamic bio-science environment. The location is ideal, offering the quality of facilities required in an outstanding setting."

Software design company Azalient is helping drive the green revolution from its new base on Stirling University Innovation Park.

This specialist company is engaged in the global fight against climate change with its traffic management and road design technology.

Azalient Ltd software is already widely used in all of Australia's major cities including Sydney where it was employed to design changes to the traffic flow across the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge. It has also helped avoid gridlock in a number of cities in North America.

One of the most recent projects was to provide Dublin with a traffic control software system and follow-up training on its use.
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Typically, in a city centre, a user of Azalient software would build a model of the streets controlled by traffic lights, and vary the time that each traffic light is set to green to find the best possible settings. A variation of a few seconds green time at one or two key junctions can make the difference between gridlock and smooth operation.

The software also has benefits for the environment: a good design will reduce the amount of idling traffic, and thus reduce the amount of pollution produced by traffic.

Gordon Duncan, Azalient's Director and software engineer, said: "Pollution produced by a car going from A to B is inevitable. Pollution produced by a car going nowhere is not."

Explaining the move to Stirling from Sydney, Gordon said: "I chose the Innovation Park because I believe it has the right image for the company and the location was good. I also believe the UK is one of the leading countries in the development of technology to combat climate change."

Azalient plan to employ another two team members by the end of the year.

The third company to locate on the Innovation Park is Ram Mechanical who aim to establish a world leading centre of excellence for the design and development of cutting edge robotic systems.

The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the California based Ram Mechanical Inc, designs robot arm-end tools, incorporating a unique vision system, to fit a particular application.

In the dairy application this allows the robot to track a cow's teats, attach itself and undertake the milking process.

The company has also developed a series of systems for automating the water bottling plants, including robot systems to place and remove bottles on and from pallets.

The company's new R&D facility on the Innovation Park will work on the development of new applications.

RAM Mechanicals currently employs two people at its Stirling facility but this is anticipated to rise substantially within the next year.

Andrew Peacock, Managing Director, of RAM Mechanical Europe, said: "The reason we chose Stirling Innovation Park to establish our European base is its ideal location. Its central situation allows us easy access to both Glasgow and Edinburgh airports. The facilities on the Park will also facilitate our expansion plans. We are delighted to be here."

Lynn Blaikie, SUIP's Operations & Business Development Manager, commented: "The arrival of these young, dynamic and ambitious companies enhances the Park's reputation as a premier business location providing an environment of inspiration where aspiration can become a reality."

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Issued on behalf of SUIP by fs communications
Further information contact Frank Sullivan: 07718660122

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