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Grant to help develop 'skin scaffold' product

A consortium in the UK is developing a pioneering new healthcare product that helps repair wounds left by cancer treatment.

The group is working to bring the material, known as EktoTherix, to production in the hope it could create a £360 million-a-year market.

The companies, Lichfield-based Lorien Engineering Solutions, Neotherix, based in York, and Smith & Nephew Advanced Management, have been handed a £345,000 grant from the Technology Strategy Board to move it to the next stage of development.

Lorien Engineering Solutions is overseeing the manufacturing process for Ektotherix which provides a scaffold around which the patient's skin can heal after surgery to remove cancerous cells.

Bill Treddenick, Life Sciences Director at Lorien, said: "This grant award is fantastic news for the project as the product has the potential to greatly improve patient outcomes during non-melanoma skin cancer excisions."

Mike Raxworthy, Chief Executive of Neotherix, added: "This Technology Strategy Board funded project will continue the development of the product towards full commercialisation.

"On completion of this project, our aim is to conduct a clinical evaluation of the product, with an estimated market launch in late 2012.

"The estimated global market for this product is £360 million per annum."

"This grant award is fantastic news for the project as the product has the potential to greatly improve patient outcomes during non-melanoma skin cancer excisions."

Bill Treddenick
Life Sciences Director at Lorien

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