

28 March 2007

Fund Boosted by First Investment

The Mercia Technology Seed Fund, launched last week, has just completed its first investment. This is into Intelligent Orthopaedics, a pioneering company in the field of medical engineering that spun out from a collaboration between Staffordshire University, Keele University and the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

Nearly a quarter of a million pounds of syndicate funding was invested into Intelligent Orthopaedics from the Mercia Technology Seed Fund, SMIF and private investors. The company received this second stage funding after the initial worldwide success of its unique medical device, the 'Staffordshire Orthopaedic Reduction Machine' (STORM), with the new funding being used to finance new product development.

The Mercia Technology Seed Fund, is a £12.8m technology fund investing in start ups and other early stage technology-based ventures located in the West Midlands and is managed by Birmingham-based WM Enterprise*, a leading provider of specialist venture capital finance and economic development and regeneration consultancy services.

Peter Ogrodnik, Managing Director of Intelligent Orthopaedics, said:

"After the success of STORM, this is a great opportunity to develop our ideas and create more unique medical devices. It is a fantastic recognition of all our hard work so far and we hope to continue this success into the future."

Dr. Mark Payton, Fund Principal for the Mercia Technology Seed Fund commented:

"We are delighted to have completed our first investment so soon after the launch of the fund. It is one of a number of opportunities that are under consideration at the moment and typifies the type of investment we seek, where there is a world class product under development with a global reach and a clear commercial path."

*WM Enterprise is a trading name of West Midlands Enterprise Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

end

Editors Notes

About WM Enterprise* (the Fund Manager):

WM Enterprise is a venture capital provider and economic development consultancy. The funds it manages include:

- The Mercia Technology Seed Fund – a £12.8m technology seed fund investing in early stage technology businesses (see www.merciafund.co.uk)
- The Baring English Growth Fund – a national fund which is now at the end of its investment period which completed deals between £1.5 and £5m in companies across England, including those in the Midlands;
- The North West Equity Fund - a regional equity gap fund based in the North West;
- The South East Growth Fund - a regional equity gap fund based in the South East.

For more information on the Mercia Technology Seed Fund contact Dr Mark Payton (markp@merciafund.co.uk). To find out more about WM Enterprise visit www.wm-enterprise.co.uk or contact Richard Lomax. Both can be contacted as follows:

WM Enterprise
Wellington House
31-34 Waterloo St
Birmingham
B2 5TJ

Tel: 0121 236 8855
Fax: 0121 233 3942

Mail: mail@wm-enterprise.co.uk

About Intelligent Orthopaedics

Intelligent Orthopaedics is a medical device manufacturer based in Stoke on Trent, UK. It specialises in the development of products related to the treatment of trauma related injuries. Its first product, ST ϕ RM, has received acclaim through winning the 2005 Lord Stafford Award for Achievement in Innovation and being a finalist in the 2005 Medical Futures Awards. For more information, contact Susan Hartman, Sales Director, at +44 (0) 1782 847840 or visit the Intelligent Orthopaedics website at www.intelligent-orthopaedics.co.uk.

*WM Enterprise is a trading name of West Midlands Enterprise Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.