

OrthoPediatics Receives Grant to Commercialize Cast Removal Device

WARSAW, Ind. (Aug. 20, 2009) – Warsaw-based OrthoPediatics, a manufacturer of orthopedic implants for children, announced today that it has received state entrepreneurship funding to commercialize its quiet cast removal device.

The three-year old specialty orthopedics developer received a \$2 million grant from the State's 21st Century Research and Technology Fund to develop and market its quiet cast removal technology.

"This emerging technology has the potential to make a traditionally uncomfortable procedure much easier to bear for both children and adults," said Mitch Roob, Secretary of Commerce and Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "The 21st Century Fund is a vital tool in keeping this brand of innovation in Indiana."

OrthoPediatics Quiet Cast Removal System, or QCR™ is a handheld, battery powered device that simultaneously cuts through cast material and protective padding. The system operates quietly and without the vibration of standard oscillating blade cast saws which, company executives say, operate at a similar sound level as a lawn mower. OrthoPediatics' technology, similar in size to a cordless drill, includes a cutting keel which prevents the patient's skin from coming in contact with the cutting blade while also cutting through the cast's protective padding.

"The QCR is a disruptive technology. We considered all of the challenges and issues associated with traditional cast removal and addressed them all at once. But at the end of the day, we're trying to make life better for children. When you can avoid the trauma associated with the loud, scary noise and the potential to burn their skin, then we have a major victory", said Greg Downey, OrthoPediatics' Vice President of Business Development.

The QCR is currently in clinical evaluations and is scheduled for launch in late September. Downey said the company has already received significant interest in the device and has multiple orders pending.

Founded in 2006 to address the unmet needs for anatomically appropriate implantable devices for children, OrthoPediatics employs 35 professionals. Under development since 2007, the Quiet Cast Removal System is the subject of 8 patents.

Dr. David Fisher, an orthopedic surgeon in Indianapolis and one who is familiar with the device stated that "Cast removal in the past has been a scary and traumatic event for most people due to the noise, blade rotation, and heat generated by previous cast saws. The Quiet Cast Removal device is a major leap forward in technology to help us to treat patients requiring cast immobilization." Dr. Fisher is the Director of the Total Joint Center at the Indiana Orthopaedic Hospital and Past-President of OrthoIndy.

Known as the "Orthopedic Capital of the World," Warsaw is home to the headquarters of three of the world's five largest makers of orthopedic implants and related surgical tools. Orthopedics is an \$8 billion industry in Indiana, and \$35 billion globally. According to the company, pediatric orthopedics is a \$2-3 billion segment that has largely been underserved by industry.

OrthoPediatics is one of nearly 70 businesses awarded a 21st Century Fund grant since January 2006. During that time, the fund has invested more than \$90 million in high-tech Indiana entrepreneurial companies that collectively have the potential to create thousands of new jobs.

About OrthoPediatics

OrthoPediatics is a bio-science company dedicated to improving the resources available for treating children's orthopedic conditions through inventing, designing, and distributing innovative and anatomically appropriate implants, unique instrumentation and biologics for children. For more information about OrthoPediatics, visit www.OrthoPediatics.com.

About IEDC

Created by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005 to replace the former Department of Commerce, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation is governed by a 12-member board chaired by Governor Daniels. Indiana Secretary of Commerce Mitch Roob serves as the chief executive officer of the IEDC. For more information about IEDC, visit www.iedc.in.gov.

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