Sky Medical Technology & The South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Win Prestigious Bionow Award

Collaborative partnership recognised for breakthrough in reducing the time to surgery for ankle fracture patients

HIGH WYCOMBE, United Kingdom (PRWEB UK) 7 December 2017 -- UK-based medical devices company, Sky Medical Technology and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, have been crowned winner of the Healthcare Project of the Year for 2017 at the prestigious Bionow Awards.

The title was awarded for their breakthrough work in partnering to generate clinical and health economic data which directly led to the adoption of the gecko™ device for the control of pre-operative oedema reduction in ankle fracture patients, reducing the time to surgery for ankle fracture patients, demonstrating significant patient benefits, NHS cost savings and an NHS derived heath economic business case that is now generating revenues internationally.

Sky Medical Technology’s innovative gecko™ device has been clinically proven to reduce pre-operative oedema in ankle fracture patients, saving two bed days per patient on average when compared to all other methods, and saving an average of £569 per patient. Associated benefits include accelerated readiness for theatre, improvement to patient wellbeing, improved theatre time scheduling and accelerated recovery as rehabilitation can begin sooner.

CCO Andrew Thelwell, collecting the award on behalf of Sky Medical said, “I would like to thank Bionow and TRUSTECH, sponsor of the award, for recognising that our project demonstrates excellence in collaboration and partnership between industry and the NHS. We are directly partnering with clinicians who are ready to challenge the status quo with innovative new solutions. The success of this project wouldn’t have been possible without the partnership with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and reinforces that collaboration really is key to bringing forward new treatments that have the potential to solve some of our most pressing and costly modern healthcare challenges.

Commenting on behalf of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Paul Baker, Orthopaedic Consultant says: “We are delighted to have won. We saw the potential for the gecko™ device to significantly improve current care pathways for our surgically treated ankle fractures. Working collaboratively with Sky Medical, our study findings show the gecko™ device can be used safely and effectively in this patient population and has streamlined care.”

Bernard Ross, CEO Sky comments, “Bionow celebrate outstanding leaders and innovators in the life sciences sector in the North of England – a sector that is worth £11bn to the North’s economy. It is an honour to be recognised by Bionow and TRUSTECH. The oedema control project is a prime example of the huge potential of collaborative innovation and partnership in healthcare settings and illustrates Sky’s highly effective route to market which has led to UK and International market penetration for the gecko™ device, in a growing number of application areas.”

Andrew continued: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bionow and to congratulate all the shortlisted companies. The awards event has been a true showcase of some of the inspiring work in healthcare in the North of England and we’re proud to be a part of it.”
The award marks a highly successful year for Sky Medical Technology, also shortlisted for Bionow Investment Deal of the Year and Project of the Year Awards.

About Firstkind and Sky Medical Technology Ltd

Sky Medical Technology, the parent of Firstkind Ltd, is a highly innovative UK based medical devices company that has developed a ground-breaking neuromuscular electrostimulation technology platform, OnPulse®. The company develops a range of products tailored to the needs of different medical application areas selling both direct and through strategic partnerships or distributors in each major clinical area. Clinical areas of interest include oedema control, DVT prevention, wound healing and elite sport recovery. The goal in each clinical area is to improve clinical outcomes and patient care whilst saving health system resources.

Worn at the knee, and easy to use, geko™ is a battery powered neuromuscular electrostimulation device designed to increase blood flow in the deep veins of the leg. The geko™ device gently stimulates the common peroneal nerve, activating the calf and foot muscle pumps resulting in increased blood flow and the reduction of oedema. http://www.gekodevices.com/

About South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the largest hospital trust in the Tees Valley serving the people of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Hambleton and Richmondshire and beyond.

The Trust runs The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough and the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton as well as community services in Hambleton and Richmondshire, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

They have a workforce of around 9,000 providing a range of specialist regional services to 1.5million people in the Tees Valley and parts of Durham, North Yorkshire and Cumbria, with a particular expertise in heart disease, trauma, neurosciences, renal services, cancer services and spinal injuries.

About Bionow

Bionow supports business growth, competitiveness and innovation within the biomedical and life science sectors across Northern England. Their membership services add value and cost-efficiency to scientific, clinical and business operations within early stage and growth-oriented firms.

Their membership base includes start-ups and early stage firms as well as established growth-oriented companies. Bionow's membership offering focuses upon the specific needs of firms at their different stages of development, including dedicated business support programmes, shared procurement schemes with significant cost savings, exclusive insurance benefits, recruitment and training services, local and national events and access to a vibrant network of businesses. http://www.bionow.co.uk

About TRUSTECH

TRUSTECH is an NHS organisation. They are the NHS Innovation Experts. TRUSTECH bridge the gap between NHS Providers / Commissioners and the commercial, academic and international healthcare sectors.
Their aim is to improve the way in which the NHS operates by encouraging the development or adoption of innovative techniques, solutions, technologies and services for the benefit of all patients.

TRUSTECH provide innovation services for NHS organisations based in the North and help Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups to develop, protect and commercialise novel products and services from within their own communities, and identify and adopt technologies and ideas from elsewhere. http://www.trustech.org.uk/
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