

Team making huge strides in medical technology

By Kelly Lea

There are lots of reasons to celebrate at medical technology company Oxtex. A successful first product launched to the UK veterinary market, human trials starting in the UK and Malaysia, two product launches planned in 2017 and an innovation award win for founders Marc Swan and Professor Jan Czernuska.

All of the above are significant milestones achieved during the company's fifth year in business, an anniversary that over half of UK start-ups fail to reach.

Oxtex has developed novel devices for soft tissue that enable skin to inflate and grow to assist surgeons in reconstructive surgical procedures.

The concept for Oxtex's medical device derived from surgeons at the John Radcliffe Hospital who formed a strategic partnership with the University of Oxford to find a solution for a clinical problem.

Founding CEO, David Jackson, is the mastermind behind Oxtex with over 25 years' experience in early stage technology companies. He first met founders Mr Marc Swan and Professor Jan Czernuska in 2010 before incorporating the business in 2011.

He comments: "I started the company with Marc and Jan who needed commercial experience to take the product forward. We secured first stage funding from the university along with a number of angel investors. At that point we were based at the Oxford Centre for Innovation on New Road."

It was during a chance conversation with a surgeon who had returned from a veterinary conference that Jackson realised the potential for Oxtex's device in the veterinary market. Five years later, Expaniderm has been launched in the UK with sales enquiries increasing on a daily basis.

Jackson confirms: "It occurred to me that we must be able to help vets as well as surgeons so we conducted some interviews to test the market. Expaniderm has received a great deal of interest from our soft launch. We are also gaining significant expressions of interest across Europe and the US."

The Oxtex small team of seven have recently moved to Witney Business & Innovation Centre (Witney BIC) managed by Oxford Innovation and owned by Blenheim Palace Estates.

Jackson expects to see Oxtex launch and manufacture its first human products from Witney BIC towards the end of next year. He explains:

"We are currently progressing two human-use products, one in the UK and the other in Malaysia. We are working towards gaining a CE Mark for our UK product, which is being tested in man locally to gain clinical data. The clinical outputs will be published next year."

"The product for the Far East has a similar timeline. We are collaborating with the University of Malaya to use our Oxtex device to treat oral cross bite by increasing the amount of pallet tissue in the mouth. Patients

have been identified and trials are due to start imminently."

Jackson has just returned from a trade show in the US where Oxtex received a great deal of interest.

"Oxtex is at a really exciting point. Human-use products next year and international expansion are huge drivers. It is a great personal challenge and extremely rewarding. I'm definitely not looking for another project!"

For further information about Oxtex, visit: oxtex.com.

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Slow-growing mass



Suture removed