

Three Companies Join Forces to Develop Diabetes Management System

Three Staffordshire SMEs have joined forces to develop an innovative diabetes management system which has the potential to make a huge global impact.

The three SMEs - MarchantCain Design Ltd, EPX Ltd and The Rich Media Company, began working together on the project in January after a diabetic chef approached Rob Marchant, MD of MarchantCain Design. "He told us that he wanted an injector device that would automatically record how much insulin he had injected and when, and remind him when his next dose was due" explained Rob Marchant, who went on, "We began to develop a system that would not only record that data but do a lot more besides." The diabetes management system they are developing, under the name Mediche, has the potential to make a huge impact not only on the lives of diabetics in the UK but around the world, saving health services millions of pounds.

There are 2.4 million diabetics in the UK alone and a further 500,000 people are undiagnosed. Diabetic care has been estimated to take up 5% of the National Health Service budget amounting to a massive £1.3 billion. Better management of their condition by diabetics themselves could lead to their better quality of life and reduced patient care costs. Rob Marchant continued "Much of the problem of poor self-care stems from diabetics trying to control their condition whilst juggling the pressures of hectic lifestyles. The Mediche system could help them to monitor their insulin dosage without them having to think about it and could also help them to monitor many other aspects they need constantly to be aware of such as blood glucose levels, the amount and sort of food they eat and the activities they do throughout the day. The information they record could also be made available, if they wanted, to their family, friends or professional care teams, so that some of that

pressure is shared. This could prove really useful for diabetic children who miss out on school trips or other excursions because their parents are too frightened that they could not manage their condition themselves without parental monitoring. This system could allow parents to monitor their children remotely, ensuring that they took the correct insulin dosage at the right time”.

The collaboration of the three companies has led to the setting up of a new company, Mediche Ltd, to manage the development of the diabetes management system which will integrate modern technologies in an innovative way. Mediche Ltd will be seeking expert opinions from a number of diabetic care specialists during a workshop to be held in October. The results of the workshop will go to refinements of the system before diabetics will be invited to test it in approximately 18 months time.

ENDS

For further information please contact Pamela Cain at Mediche Ltd:

Telephone: 01889 577322: Mobile: 07808 778993: Email: pam@mediche.com

Notes for Editors

MarchantCain Design Ltd is an engineering design consultancy set up in 2006 by Rob Marchant and based in Rugeley, Staffordshire. Rob is an automotive engineer with extensive project management expertise and experience of product design and commercialisation.

EPX Ltd (T/A EPX Technical Services) was set up in March 2005 by Daniel Ellis and Mark Pennington after completing IT degrees at Staffordshire University. EPX primarily deals with business to business technical services. The key services EPX provide are outsourced IT support, web design, bespoke software development and connectivity services. With the majority of customers based in the midlands area, EPX also supports customers across the UK and abroad.

The Rich Media Company was set up by Richard Bishop in 2008 after completing his degree in Internet Technology and Mobile Computing. Richard has been trading in the IT, Web and Mobile industry for 5 years and has 9 years of commercial system and software development experience, as well as a history of project management and fulfilment roles. The Rich Media Company has worked on a range of projects, from websites for the comedian Joe Pasquale, to an award-winning online management system for Staffordshire University Students' Union.

The Mediche diabetes management system will comprise an insulin injector pen with a dose, time and date recording facility which will connect to a mobile device on which diabetics can record information about diet and lifestyle. The information will be uploaded to a dedicated website; www.Mediche.com (under construction) where it can be viewed in graph formats, organised, amended and from which reports can be generated. The information can be viewed by others to whom the diabetic user has given authorisation. This could allow friends, carers or the diabetic's professional care team members to view the information to check that the diabetic manages their condition in the expected manner. Any unforeseen changes to the norm could alert those carers to contact the diabetic to ensure that all was well or, if not, to be able to assist the diabetic if necessary.