



## LOUTH COMPANY TO DEVELOP NEXT-GEN SURGICAL DEVICES FOR EU

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Dundalk company Blueacre Technology is developing next-generation surgical devices as part of a new €4.5 million EU project. Openmind, the EU research project, aims to create a production system for customised and metal-free minimally invasive medical devices (MIMDs) which are used by surgeons navigating and operating in the circulatory system. Metal devices are not compatible with MRI and with ten million people each year getting an MRI scan for diagnostic purposes, there is a large market to service with MIMDs.

In conjunction with Blueacre Technology, Openmind is developing devices using fibre-reinforced plastics which offer multi-modal compatibility for X-Ray, CT and MRI. Blueacre Technology will be working on the project with eight other European technology companies, from countries including Germany, France and Italy. Openmind was set up to create the first flexible process chain for customised medical device manufacturing. This process chain will close the gap between efficiently produced 'off-the-shelf' products and individually customised products, enabling the production of small batches. The project is hoping to reduce lead-in and process development times.

David Gillen, managing director, Blueacre Technology, said "This specialised area of medical device manufacture has tremendous potential to improve the efficiency of interventional surgical medicine. By making it easier to design and produce metal-free minimally invasive medical devices, the project could lead to significantly improved diagnoses and treatment of cardiac disease and reduce the €45 billion annual cost of lost productivity in the EU associated with it." The first project Blueacre Technology will work on is the development of a guide wire. Guide wires are essential tools for many minimally invasive procedures, such as cardiac interventions.

Web article at <http://www.businesspost.ie/louth-company-to-develop-next-generation-surgical-devices-in-new-e4-5-million-project/>