European Commission

SME Achievements around Europe

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Austria

ISU-DEP

The ISU-DEP project aims to increase the autonomy of elderly and bedridden people by supporting caregivers, and restoring dignity and self-esteem through sensitive personal hygiene. The project will develop a series of mobile sanitary equipment which improves personal hygiene, care-provision and overall quality of life. The first piece of apparatus is a mobile commode chair with standing assistance (5Mobiler Toiletten Stuhl – MTS) that can also be used as a shower chair. The chair is unique in its kind and it launched at the end of October 2013. The Austrian SME **"Shoch3" (Styrian Sanitary Systems)** is a spin-off company that emerged out of BTE BLECHTECHNIK EISENERZ GMBH (BLE), one of the original participants in the consortium, and whose creation was possible thanks to EU investment in the project. Shoch3 specialises in the development, marketing and sale of sanitary equipment for the elderly and will distribute the chair in Austria. The ISU-DEP partners will continue to develop and test sanitary system prototypes including a mobile service station to provide sanitary equipment with fresh water and waste water disposal, as well as a central charging station to clean and charge the mobile service station. #EU4LifeQuality or #EU4citizens

©Santis KFT

Belgium

A-FOOTPRINT

The Belgian SME **RSscan International**, specialised in gait analysis with pressure measuring plates, was a key participant in the EU-funded project A-FOOTPRINT. A-FOOTPRINT provides a cost-effective, fully integrated orthotic solution to help the approximately 200 million European citizens who suffer from disabling foot and ankle conditions. RSscan International made it possible to develop a complete skeleton movement model based on pressure alone, a useful biomechanical model for orthopaedic or podiatry use which is the first of its kind. The company's involvement is essential for the future prototyping and commercialisation of the project results. RSscan now aims to increase employee numbers by 25 by 2016 and 30 by 2018, and to continue its focus on combining pressure (footscan) measurements with biomechanical equipment. #EU4LifeQuality or #EU4citizens

© A-FOOTPRINT

Bulgaria

PANNA

The EU has invested in Plasma And Nano For New Age Soft Conservation (PANNA), a three-year project focusing on the development of new techniques and technologies for cleaning and protecting cultural heritage assets. The PANNA consortium involves nine partners from four European countries, including the Bulgarian restoration and conservation SME, **Centre for Restoration of Artworks (CRA)**. PANNA opens up opportunities for CRA renovators to improve their skills, invest in new technologies and experiments, and to be competitive not only in Bulgaria but also in other markets. PANNA will deliver new and better ways to preserve Bulgaria's and Europe's cultural heritage. #EU4LifeQuality

Plasma cleaning tests of murals in "Sveti Georgi" church, Golyamo Belovo village, Bulgaria, © PANNA 2013

Croatia

GLYCOBIOM

Supported by financial investment from the European Union, GLYCOBIOM brings together Europe's leading glycobiology scientists to find new biomarkers for personalised medicine. Glycobiology is the study of molecules that contain carbohydrates, their structure and function, and the roles they play in biology.

Croatian scientists from **Genos Ltd** have discovered that certain glycans (a type of complex sugar) can predict the speed at which colon cancer progresses, thus allowing for more tailored therapy for each patient. Two thousand patients participated in a study into the importance of glycans for colon cancer. Largely thanks to the GLYCOBIOM project, Genos is today the leading laboratory for the analysis of glycans in large clinical and epidemiological studies. It is one of the most successful small businesses in Europe, and among the world leaders in the field. #EU4LifeQuality

©Genos

Cyprus

ENERMAP

ENERMAP is the EU-funded project headed by Dr. Alexandros Charalambides, a lecturer at the Cyprus University of Technology, who joined forces with Paris Thomas, Business Consultant and Director at Open Box Communication, and Jânio Tjoe-Awie, Geographical Information Systems expert from Nieuwland Geo-Informatie in the Netherlands, to map out the energy efficiency of buildings across Europe. This idea took off when the **ENERMAP** partners won first prize (a €95,000 grant) in a pan-European entrepreneurship competition hosted by Climate-KIC, a European-wide climate change. The concept behind this map is to provide the general public with information about the energy efficiency of buildings, such as the energy label of the structure/ building, and a colour scheme which indicates how "green" a building is, a type of application similar to Google maps. This energy efficiency information is currently scattered and not readily available in most countries. Easy access to this data will allow consumers to consider energy factors before deciding on a new house or a business move, whilst also widely promoting green infrastructure. #EU4LifeQuality

©ENERMAP

Czech Republic

DINAMO

The EU-funded research project DINAMO has used the unique properties of diamonds to develop a radical new way to study molecular processes in living cells. This new technology can, for example, detect the onset of cancer far earlier than was previously possible, opening the path to more effective treatment and potentially saving the lives of countless cancer patients.

GENERI BIOTECH S.R.O., a Czech biotechnological company, brought its expertise in the field of DNA modifications to the DINAMO project. Thanks to the EU investment, the company has been able to build relationships with industry leaders and research institutions, increase its expertise, and gain experience with new materials and technologies. Overall, the funding has enhanced the company's competitiveness and provided an opportunity to further grow its business. #EU4LifeQuality

© DINAMO : Specially engineered nanodiamond particles produced during DINAMO project

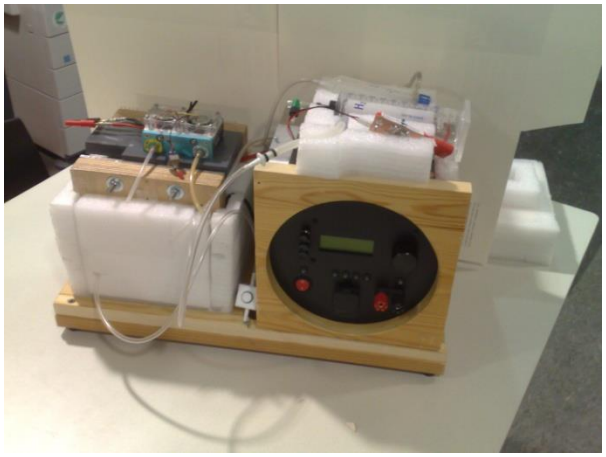
Denmark

DIGISTONE

The DIGISTONE consortium is developing concrete that can be used as a media display and a digital screen. The material allows light to be sent through the concrete via a fine net of perfectly aligned and very thin optical fibres. The market for this technology is primarily outdoor media and advertising. The Danish SME **Dupont Lightstone APS** produces concrete products with embedded fibre optics and, with the help of the technology from the DIGISTONE consortium, the company hopes to be able to refine the existing products further. Through EU investment in the project, approximately 900 jobs are expected to be created in the value chain in the five years to come and society in general will also benefit from the technology since it will decrease energy consumption and pollution. #EU4LifeQuality or #EU4jobs

Dupont Lightstone presentation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tIBQHgdiAY

Finland



ISH2SUP

The ISH2SUP project studied two different solutions for fuelling micro fuel cells and developed them to a demonstrable level. The key idea is that fuel cell technology can be used as a power source for portable electronic devices such as mobile phones and laptops. **Oy Hydrocell, Ltd**., a Finnish company that develops and manufactures fuel cells and hydrogen technology, participated in this EU-funded project and was able to gain further insight into the technology. Commercialisation of a product based on the results of the project can be expected in approximately 5-6 years. #EU4LifeQuality

© Oy Hydrocell

France

CITYMOBIL

CITYMOBIL is the name for the new generation of vehicles that aims to fill a gap in the current public transportation offering in European cities. This innovative project, in which 3 French SMEs are involved (ROBOSOFT SA, Proxiway and INDUCT), consists of a driverless shuttle which can accommodate up to 8 passengers at a speed of 20 km/h. CITYMOBIL combines all of the qualities that a public transportation service could wish for: less congestion and pollution, safer driving, better quality of life as well as enhanced integration with spatial development. Imagined as a transport solution for European citizens in order to help commuters get to and from work more efficiently, CITYMOBIL will inevitably shape the city of tomorrow. **INDUCT** was one of the companies that actively participated in establishing the technical and safety characteristics of the futuristic vehicle. Of the €9,500,000 invested by the European Union, INDUCT should receive €980,000 over the next two years. The project will also have a direct impact on the development strategy of the company which plans to expand from 40 to 105 employees in the next 18 months. #EU4LifeQuality or #EU4jobs

Navia shuttle, place de la Concorde, Paris ©Société INDUCT

Germany

EPOSBED

EPOSBED aims to design and validate a specialised bed with an easy-to-use positioning function that allows patients with limited mobility to change their position without assistance from caregivers. Thanks to an intelligent sensor system, it is no longer necessary for nurses to change the patient's position every two or three hours to prevent bedsores. The sensor system detects where the pressure on the user's body is particularly high and changes the patient's position in bed automatically – even when the patient is asleep. The 'intelligent bed' thereby improves the patient's independence significantly and reduces reliance on staff. The participating German SME, **FOS Messtechnik GmbH**, benefits from involvement in the EU-funded EPOSBED consortium as it opens up a new market segment for the company and helps it build a competitive advantage. Traditionally, the company has specialised in sensors for combustion engines and plastics processing, but now has a new business mainstay in medical technology. As part of the EPOSBED team, FOS Messtechnik GMBH was responsible for the development of a sensor mat incorporating 400 sensors to measure body pressure distribution. #EU4LifeQuality

©Spalding

Greece

AQUASZERO

Drinking water with high arsenic levels can lead to a number of dangerous disorders including skin diseases, cancer, high blood pressure and cardio-vascular disease. Harmful levels of arsenic have been detected in ground waters of many European countries. The AQUASZERO project, supported by an EU grant of €850,000, has developed low cost adsorbents in the form of granules that can remove arsenic from drinking water. The product can be used in existing water treatment filter cartridges where the arsenic bonds firmly to the AQUASZERO granules. When the granules are saturated they can be safely buried in the ground as inert waste. The project is led by Greek company **Loufakis Chemicals**, working in partnership with a number of local SMEs, the Aristotle University of Athens and the ELKEDE centre of technology and design, for the development of the project. A production line has already been set up at the AQUASZERO factory in Thessalonika with an initial capacity of 1,200 Kgs of granules per day. This low cost material could in the future be used as the de facto method of water treatment for both industrial and domestic use. #EU4LifeQuality

Find out more about the AQUASZERO project:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_rLxqualLg

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dtoe1wkGNu0

©AQUASZERO

Hungary

ISU-DEP

The EU funded ISU-DEP project (Intelligent Sanitary Units for Disabled and Elderly People) aims to find an answer to the needs of the ageing population by developing products that can make the attendance of elderly and disabled people more efficient, hygienic, and simple both at home and in hospital care. The project has resulted in the development of prototypes for 2 sanitary products that will significantly improve the quality of life of the elderly or infirm: a multi-functional mobile bedside toilet and a mobile shower. **Santis Kft**., a Hungarian SME specialised in developing, producing and distributing special sanitary products, tested the mobile toilet with several healthcare institutions and after positive feedback, launched the product on the market in September 2013. Santis now hopes to create several new jobs to develop, manufacture and distribute the products resulting from the ISU-DEP project. #EU4LifeQuality

Mobile toilet video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4LnmFR08wQ&hd=1

© Santis Kft.

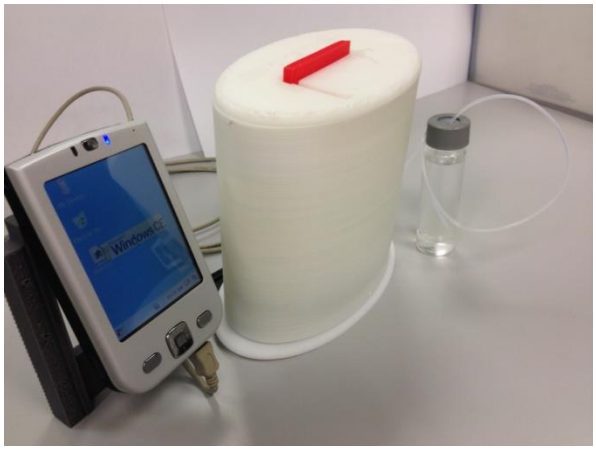
Ireland

LONG LIFE BRIDGES

The €890,855 EU development grant shared between Irish Consulting Engineering firm, **Roughan & O'Donovan (ROD)** as coordinator, and other participants from Denmark, Sweden and France, has enabled them to drive the LONG LIFE BRIDGES project. The LONG LIFE BRIDGES consortium has developed a technology called a bi-directional multi-passive tuned mass damper, which can deal with two different frequencies and thereby control structural vibrations, a significant problem for cable bridges. The new technology has already been used with great success on a railway bridge in Ånge, Sweden. The consortium has also developed a micro simulation model applicable to all bridges, which can simulate 100s of years of driving to give far more accurate estimates of a bridge's life span. Concrete and steel are energy intense products and so building a new bridge when it is not necessary is environmentally unfriendly, as well as being costly and having a negative impact on the surrounding population. Thanks to the EU investment, ROD was able to hire a Business Development Manager, enabling the company to harness the specialist expertise gained through the secondments to other partners. Involvement in the project has led to potential new contracts in Ireland and more interest from companies around the world. #EU4business

Eugene O'Brien, engineer at ROD

Italy



OTASENS/DEMOTOX

The contamination of different food and feed commodities by ochratoxin A (OTA), produced by several widespread fungi, represents a serious health risk due to the high toxicity of OTA. Traditional methods of detecting toxins in food products are often unreliable and prove a costly and time-consuming task for SMEs. Under the EU-funded **OTASENS** project, Automation Srl, an SME that develops advanced lab solutions, in collaboration with the University "La Sapienza" of Rome and with other European companies and institutions, has developed a portable device that can detect, quickly and economically, Ochratoxin A (OTA) in food and beverages. The recently-launched **DEMOTOX** project aims to prepare a pre-series of these devices ready to be introduced into the commercial market within the next 2 years. Combining expertise in product development, management, and risk mitigation, members of **OTASENS** and **DEMOTOX** have set out to take the device to market with the assistance of competent external bodies. Through commercialisation of the device, project partners hope to make SMEs in the food industry more competitive while increasing safety across the food chain. #EU4LifeQuality #EU4business

Preview photo kindly provided by Automation s.r.l.

Latvia

EUPHOROS

The four-year EUPHOROS project developed innovative technology for a sustainable greenhouse system that does not need any fossil energy and thereby minimises the carbon footprint of equipment, creates no water waste or emissions from fertilizers, and guarantees full recycling of the substrate. The project's Dutch and Latvian partners, and in particular the Latvian SME **GroGlass**, created advanced glass coatings for light and climate control in greenhouses. The thin foil layer, patented by "GroGlass", increases the opacity of glass by 8%, thus reducing heat requirements by 10%. Moreover, natural light can be used throughout the day regardless of weather conditions (sunny, cloudy and rainy weather). EU investment in EUPHOROS has enabled the continued commercial development of GroGlass, and the distribution of its special glass coverage technologies. Today the company has a solid place in the export market and is creating new local jobs. #EU4jobs #EU4business

© GroGlass

Lithuania

SORBENT

The SORBENT project addresses the need to remediate contaminated soil at a viable cost. Human activities have resulted in more than 3.5 million suspected contamination sites across the EU. Thanks to SORBENT, an in-situ soil remediation technique has been developed. Application of the SORBENT three-step treatment technique achieves very low soil pollution levels. The fast and effective reduction of the contaminant concentration, low maintenance costs and the evironmentally-friendly approach of the project techniques meet the market's demands. Investment in the project by the European Union enabled project coordinator **GROTA** (Lithuania) to purchase new laboratory equipment, create new jobs, as well as expand its knowledge and expertise base.

#EU4jobs #EU4business

©SORBENT

Luxembourg

TINN2

TINN2 will strengthen paediatric drug evaluation across Europe, support recent initiatives from the European pharmaceutical industry, and build up a network of units with experience in clinical research that will be used for additional drug evaluation in neonates, ultimately improving their chances of survival. Using EU investment under the European FP7 Framework programme, TINN2 is coordinated by the Institut National De La Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) together with **The Advanced Biological Laboratories S.A**., a biotech SME from Luxemburg specialised in clinical monitoring, analysis and reporting systems. Luxemburg has a vested interest in expanding its expertise in different fields of science, a relative small playing field locally, as it will create jobs and help to further develop the sector on a national level. #EU4LifeQuality #EU4jobs

© TINN2

Malta

SELFDOTT / TRANS-DOTT

The Bluefin tuna project started in the early 2000's when several scientists involved in bluefin tuna research met in Spain for the DOTT international conference. The consortium, which involved 13 partners from eight countries including Malta, achieved remarkable results as scientists managed to fertilise eggs artificially. This prompted the consortium to apply for EU funding under the 7th Framework Programme to develop the SELFDOTT project. Locally, the Malta Aquaculture Research Centre coordinated the Maltese experiments and the sampling of bluefin tuna from the wild, while the SME **MFF Ltd** was responsible for holding broodstock for egg collection, a large-scale broodstock nutrition experiment, egg transportation trials, and larval rearing trials. Currently, the same partners are participating in a two-year EU 7th Framework Project, TRANS-DOTT, to develop economically viable methodologies that provide sustainable tuna aquaculture. #EU4business

©SELFDOTT/TRANS-DOTT

Netherlands

HEALTHBREAD

The HEALTHBREAD project will develop whole grain and white breads with improved nutritional and product quality. The HEALTHBREAD Manual, with guidelines for choice of raw materials, processing and nutritional information, produced in the languages of the participating SMEs bakeries, will put scientific knowledge into practice and enable them to produce improved bread. The EU investment in the project will allow participating Dutch bakeries, **(SMEs Dyadic Nederland BV, Bakkerij Kamstra BV** and **Stichting Nederlands Bakkerij Centrum)** to expand their local business, thus creating jobs, and share knowledge with other bakeries in the EU. Overall, Dutch bakeries look forward to making bread an even healthier product for all EU citizens. #EU4LifeQuality #EU4jobs #EU4citizens

© HEALTHBREAD

Poland

ISA-PACK

The objective of the ISA-PACK project is to develop a flexible sustainable, active and intelligent technology platform for the packaging of fresh food, targeting extended shelf life and quality, enhanced safety and reduced food and packaging waste. The Polish SME ISA-PACK partner - **INTREX** - will test the prototype TTI ink (TTI - Time Temperature Indicator), informing consumers about the product temperature, and will also work on indicators of freshness. ISA-PACK is made possible thanks to funding from the EU and the project results will allow INTREX to develop its own range of products for the packaging industry, providing customers with the latest intelligent packaging innovations. #EU4LifeQuality #EU4citizens

©ISA-PACK Project

Portugal

AGROBIOFILM

The main goal of the AGROBIOFILM project is to eliminate the technical barriers that prevent biodegradable plastics from becoming a viable substitute for mulch film. This involves not only optimising the biodegradable formula for use in specific regions and with specific crops, but also improving this formula with enhancers for disease control, soil preparation and/or fertiliser. The consortium, led by the Portuguese company **Silvex**, includes SMEs from Norway and France, several universities from Portugal, Spain, France and Denmark, and is being implemented in Portuguese, Spanish and French companies. With the knowledge obtained through AGROBIOFILM, Silvex has grown its sales by offering a product that increases crop yields thus bringing an enhanced competitive edge to the company. #EU4business #EU4LifeQuality

©AGROBIOFILM

Romania

SONO

Hospital-acquired infections are a major health concern in Europe, as well as a significant economic burden. The statistics on patient safety in the EU show alarming trends: 1 in 10 patients are affected by hospital-acquired infections, while 3 million deaths are caused by hospital-acquired infections. In response, researchers are now developing a novel process to create antibacterial textiles for use in hospital environments.

Thanks to EU investment, the SONO project has developed a pilot line of antibacterial and antifungal medical textiles based on a sonochemical process (SONO). It will use a sonochemical technique to produce and deposit inorganic, antimicrobial nanoparticles on medical textiles, e.g. hospital sheets, medical coats and bandages. Project partners, including Romanian SME **S.C. DAVO STAR IMPEX SR**, have created two pilot plants and are using them to optimise the coating process. The team's findings will be used in the scale-up to industrial level.

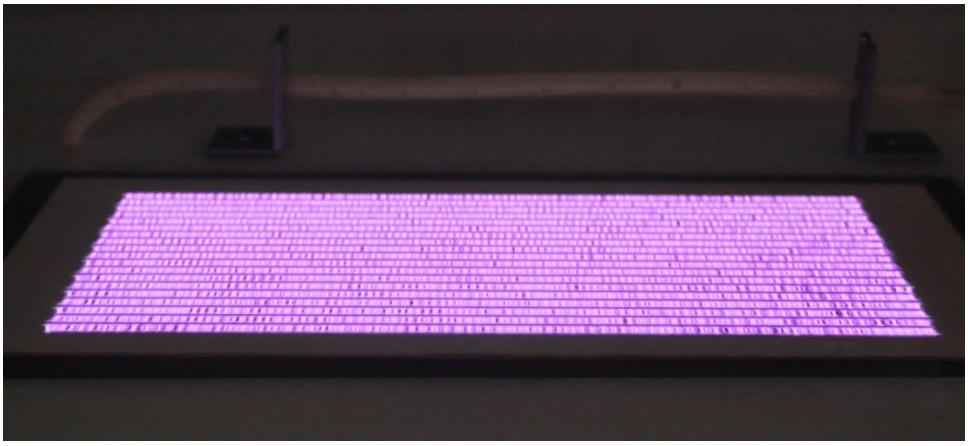
#EU4LifeQuality #EU4citizens

©Franck Boston

Slovakia

DURAWOOD

The EU DURAWOOD project aims to develop a cost-effective, ecological and durable wood coating system that is free from toxic preservatives and will significantly improve the performance of water-borne coatings. Slovakian SME **Ing. Ján Šestina** is an industrial partner in the project, **and PAM-aks**. manages the supply chain of the technology. DURAWOOD will greatly facilitate the Slovak wood industry in its shift towards safer, more environmentally-friendly, water-borne coating system in tune with legislative, market and consumer requirements. By improving the durability of coated wood, the project will also contribute to increasing the competitiveness of wood products and materials. #EU4LifeQuality #EU4citizens #EU4business



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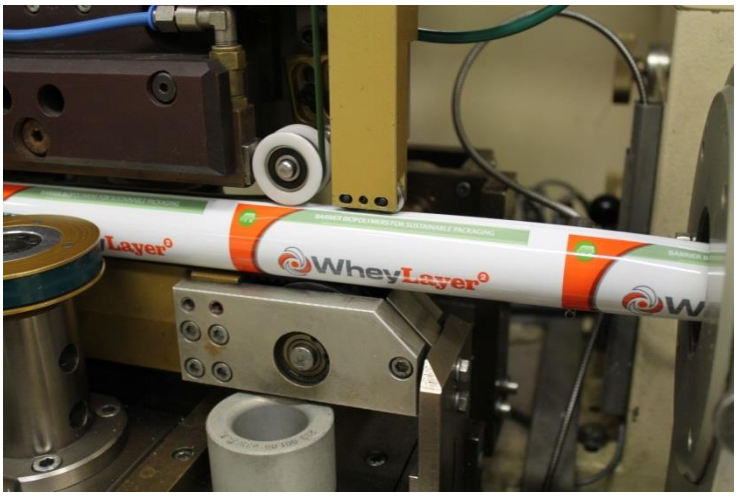
Slovenia



WHEYLAYER2

Lajovic Tuba is a Slovenian-based SME created nearly 90 years ago. For decades it has been producing aluminium and PE packaging and with the support of EU funding under the FP7 programme, it secured a leading role in the WHEYLAYER2 consortium, the follow up project focused on up-scaling the results obtained in WHEYLAYER, proving their industrialisation potential. WHEYLAYER developed a technique for creating whey-coated plastic films that don't compromise the oxygen or moisture barrier performance of conventional plastic films, yet increase their recyclability. Lajovic Tuba's role is to provide marketing support for the newly developed packaging. The product life cycle analysis (LCA) shows results that are up to 15% more environmentally-friendly, and it has attracted prospective clients such as cosmetics giants L'Oreal and Nivea. In light of ever more demanding consumers and even stricter regulations coming into action, the WHEYLAYER2 consortium has set its sights on securing a stable market for the new product. If successful, Lajovic Tuba will expand its capacity and hire up to 30 new people in the next five years as a direct result of this innovation. #EU4citizens #EU4jobs

© Lajovic Tuba

Spain

EPOSBED

The Spanish SME **Spalding** (also known as Industrias Tobia) has coordinated the EPOSBED project, which, thanks to EU investment, has led to the development of an adjustable bed allowing patients with limited mobility to change their position without the assistance of medical staff. The bed uses intelligent software that interprets the patient's movement and positions the mattress according to the person's wishes. This project will improve the quality of life of both patients and nurses, who often suffer back injury due to the physical efforts needed to move these patients. Thanks to EPOSBED, Spalding is strengthening its positioning in the specialty bed market. "#EU4citizens #EU4LifeQuality

©Spalding

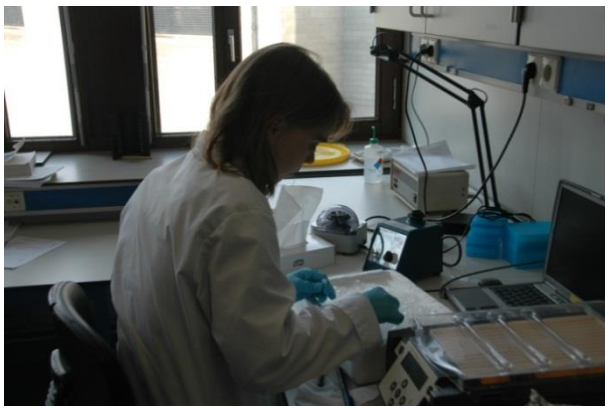
Sweden

ISH2SUP

The EU-funded ISH2SUP project studied two different solutions for fuelling micro fuel cells and developed them to a demonstrable level. The key idea is that fuel cell technology can be used as a power source for portable electronic devices. One of the companies in the consortium is the Swedish SME **myFc**. The company has developed and commercialised PowerTrekk, a product driven by fuel cells that serves as a power source for smaller portable electronic devices like mobile phones. By integrating the technology studied in ISH2SUP into its own technology, myFC will be able to develop chargers with a higher voltage that can charge larger portable devices like computers and tablets. The product can also be used as an emergency power system, useful during natural disasters and other unpredictable events. #EU4LifeQuality

©myFC

United Kingdom



NAIMIT

Immunocore is an Abingdon based company playing a key role in an EU funded research group - the NAIMIT Consortium. This consortium has shown promise in producing a valid treatment for Type I diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition, where the immune system mistakes the cells in the pancreas as harmful and attacks them, destroying them completely or damaging them enough to stop them producing insulin. The NAIMIT consortium is developing 4 distinct approaches to treating the disease, two academic led programmes developing peptide and dendritic cell vaccines to re-educate the immune system, and two industrial led programmes whereby Immunocore has created, for the first time, a T cell receptor based drug that directly targets the affected human beta cells within the pancreas and can be used to provide localised immunosuppression. With 4 distinct therapeutic approaches in development the NAIMIT consortium is at the leading edge of developing a treatment for this insidious disease. #EU4LifeQuality

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