



PRESS RELEASE – 31 AUGUST 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore – August 31, 2011: AWAK Technologies announced today the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with University Children’s Hospital Tübingen for clinical trials of the automated wearable artificial kidney on pediatric patients. This marks AWAK’s automated wearable artificial kidney’s first trial on pediatric patients and the beginning of long term collaboration in advancement of pediatric renal research.

According to the U.S. Renal Data System 2010 annual data report and 2008 European Registry for Pediatric Nephrology, the estimated number of pediatric patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in United States of America reached 7,216 in year 2008 and the number of children starting ESRD therapy rose to 9% to 1,277 from year 2000 to 2008. In Europe, the estimated number of pediatric patients was 2,802 and the number of children starting dialysis was 510. This collaboration between AWAK Technologies and University Children’s Hospital Tübingen aims to bring a much more effective and efficient therapy that suits the life of children while having dialysis.

In children, a healthy kidney is important for physical development as it regulates growth hormones, eliminate toxic waste and excess water from blood. Children on dialysis tend to have poor appetite which limits their nutritional intake. With little energy intake, this can lead to decreased in activity and resistance to infection. Although dialysis improves some of the problems, many children continue to grow poorly. AWAK’s automated wearable artificial kidney allows for better dietary protein intake. Typical centre-based dialysis requires pediatric patients to spend 4 hours, 3 times a week at the centre. The new wearable artificial kidney allows children to undergo dialysis anytime and anywhere. The greatest benefit of the wearable artificial kidney to pediatric patients is their ability to travel freely, allowing them to attend school and participate in family and social activities.

SPRING Singapore facilitated the meeting between AWAK Technologies and University Children’s Hospital Tübingen during a Germany business mission trip in 2009.

“The automated wearable artificial kidney is a major breakthrough in the care of children with renal insufficiency. The children become independent from dialysis centers and will be able to continue a normal life with their families and friends. It is an honor that AWAK has chosen our pediatric center to bring this highly innovative and groundbreaking technique to clinical application. “, says Prof Rupert Handgretinger, Medical Director of General Pediatrics, Haematology, Oncology (Department I) and Managing Medical Director of the University Children’s Hospital Tübingen.

“It is great honor to be able to partner University Children’s Hospital Tübingen, a world renowned medical institution of pediatric care and research in the application of automated wearable artificial kidney. In our visits to Tübingen, facilitated by SPRING Singapore, we are impressed by the innovativeness, leading-edge pediatric medicine and great medical care through the leadership of Prof Rupert Handgretinger. I believe the enthusiasm of both parties in bringing an innovative therapy to the world will greatly benefits pediatric ESRD patients. “, says Mr Neo Kok Beng, Chief Executive Officer and President of AWAK Technologies.

The MOU signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr Png Cheong Boon, Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore and Dr Tim Philippi, Executive Director, Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

“The collaboration between AWAK and University Children’s Hospital Tübingen is an excellent example of how an innovation by a Singapore SME can claim niche positions in the global marketplace. Facilitated by SPRING, such German-Singapore partnership is a testament of Singapore’s leading position in innovation in the medical technology sector. We hope to see more biomedical SMEs take steps towards developing products that are clinician-driven to ensure the meaningfulness of the innovations to further medical causes,” said Mr Png Cheong Boon, Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore.

About University Children’s Hospital Tübingen

University Children’s Hospital Tübingen is a part of the University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine Tübingen located at Schnarrenberg Hill. The Hospital has five main focal points in pediatric medicine. New medical horizons are continuously being explored through active faculty involvement in both clinical and basic laboratory research. Clinical research currently includes participation in multicentre clinical trials in the fields of pediatric oncology, urology and traumatology. The University Children's Hospital is also a perinatological centre, social pediatric centre and social medicine centre for follow-up treatment.

About AWAK Technologies

AWAK Technologies was incorporated in 2007 in collaboration with Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore to design and develop *Automated Wearable Artificial Kidney (AWAK)* to address End-Stage Renal Disease market. AWAK Technologies was founded by Dr Gordon Ku (Chairman of Kidney Dialysis Foundation), Dr David B. N. Lee and Dr Martin Roberts (both of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA), and Mr Neo Kok Beng. The technology was exclusively licensed by UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and the VA (Veteran Affairs) to AWAK Technologies to pioneer the development of artificial wearable kidneys.

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