



Purchasing and Supply Agency

News release

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Recognition for new technologies put to work in the fight against healthcare infections

New technologies for use by the NHS to help combat healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) such as MRSA and *C.difficile* won praise and recognition last night at the first HCAI Technology Innovation Programme Awards.

The awards have been created to highlight and celebrate innovation and success within the field of HCAI related technology and technological developments. They recognise that new and innovative technologies are helping to save lives and are making it easier for doctors and nurses to fight infection.

Winning technologies include a rapid portable test for MRSA, a hydrogen peroxide vapour system for decontaminating enclosed rooms, wards and equipment and steam cleaning technology for the safe removal of harmful pathogens from hospitals.

Health Minister Ann Keen said: "New technologies have an important part to play in helping to combat HCAIs, especially MRSA and *C.difficile*. The winners of the HCAI Technology Innovation Awards have made a significant contribution to our thinking about the design, development and use of HCAI related technologies.

"I hope that this recognition and celebration of innovation and success will send a positive message of encouragement that we take the need for the development of new and novel technologies very seriously."

Held at Chelsea Football Club, the awards ceremony followed the first International HCAI Technology Innovation Summit which marked the first anniversary of the HCAI Technology Innovation Programme.

The programme, a joint initiative between the Department of Health and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, aims to speed up the development and adoption of new technologies in the health service.

The award for **Innovative technological concept: originating from industry with the most potential to prevent HCAI** was won by ErgoMedica Ltd for MedMat, a unique, two-layer sterile mat for use during a variety of procedures such as dressing, line and catheter changes. An integrated waste bag collects and contains all non sharp clinical waste created during the procedure.

Other companies shortlisted were ConvaTec Ltd and Enturia Limited

The award for the **Team or individual from the NHS or industry that has contributed in the most practical way to promoting the development and/or adoption of HCAI related technology** was won by Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the implementation of a new rapid MRSA BCR testing technology. This complemented a genuine transformation throughout the trust in its approach to infection prevention and control. MRSA infection rates have significantly reduced.

Also shortlisted were Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and Hygienics Limited

The award for **Actual new and/or novel HCAI related product or technology likely or proven to help reduce infection** was won by TwixtDx. TwixtDx is applying its novel DNA technology, Recombinase Polymerase Amplification (RPA), to develop a rapid, portable test for MRSA that has the potential to give results within 15 minutes. RPA is a new DNA amplification technology that allows diagnostic tests to retain the highest possible levels of specificity and sensitivity, while adding superior speed and portability compared to current DNA diagnostics.

The award for **Innovative technological concept or new and novel product or technology offering the greatest contribution in controlling *Clostridium difficile*** was won by BIOQUELL Plc for its hydrogen peroxide vapour system which is highly effective in decontaminating enclosed rooms, wards and equipment. The process works by injecting hydrogen peroxide vapour into enclosed areas, which then condenses on the surfaces to kill a range of HCAs, including MRSA and *C. difficile*.

Also shortlisted were Kimberley-Clark Healthcare and Enigma Diagnostics Limited

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Also shortlisted were Healthy Environment Innovations and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

The award for **New and/or novel product or technology with the greatest contribution to enhancing the cleanliness of the hospital environment was won by OSPREY DEEPCLEAN** which has developed a steam cleaning technology for the safe removal of harmful pathogens from the hospital environment. The technology is reliant on heating water to a vapour temperature and then controlling the release of vapour.

Also shortlisted were Pathogen Solutions Ltd and STERIS Ltd

Awards were also presented to ten trusts which have made an outstanding contribution to fighting infection. The trusts were nominated by their Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) for excellence in infection prevention performance.

Each trust has been awarded a grant to be spent on HCAI related technology. A case study on the choice of technology and its adoption will be carried out by the HCAI Technology Innovation Programme next year.

Winners were:

- Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, nominated by London SHA
- Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust, nominated by South East Coast SHA
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust nominated by South West SHA
- Liverpool PCT in association with Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, nominated by North West SHA.
- Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust nominated by East of England SHA
- Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust nominated by South Central SHA
- Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, nominated by West Midlands SHA
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, nominated by Yorkshire and the Humber SHA
- South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust nominated by North East SHA
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, nominated by East Midlands NHS SHA

Notes to editors:

1. For further information please contact Alison Pitts-Bland in the NHS PASA communications team on 020 7972 5644 or Alison.Pitts-Bland@pasa.nhs.uk

2. The HCAI Technology Innovation Programme is a joint initiative by the Department of Health and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. It aims to speed up the development and adoption of new technologies to help fight healthcare associated infections (HCAIs). The programme was launched in January 2008 in the Department of Health publication – *Clean, Safe Care – Reducing Infection and Saving Lives*. Further information at www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk

3. NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health, works to ensure that the NHS in England makes the most effective use of its resources by getting the best possible value for money when purchasing goods and services – www.pasa.nhs.uk.

4. Judges for the technology awards were:

Peter Ellingworth, Chief Executive, ABHI.

Chris Gush, Technical Manager, DH

Professor Brian Duerden CBE, Inspector of Microbiology and Infection Control, DH.

Carole Fry, Nursing Officer Communicable Diseases, Infectious Diseases and Blood Policy, DH.

Martin Kiernan, Nurse Consultant for Prevention and Control of Infection at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, and President of the Infection Prevention Society.

Dr Geoff Ridgway, Clinical Microbiologist, President of the Hospital Infection Society.