

PRESS RELEASE: 1st October 2008

SUBJECT: Innovation

HEADLINE: Tynetec leads groundbreaking telecare initiative...

ORIGINATOR: Charlie Wainwright, Chief Executive, Tynetec Ltd

TEXT:

Tynetec, the Northumberland-based social alarm and telecare products manufacturer has been selected to lead a £1million government-funded research project sponsored by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

Tynetec, in partnership with four health and care organisations, will lead an innovative research project to evaluate the potential benefits of proactive preventative telecare and telehealth systems.

Via the installation of personal telecare systems in more than 400 homes across the UK, the partners will remotely collect, analyse and evaluate personal activity and vitality information.

The TSB funding will be used, in part, to develop a “knowledge database” to monitor and interpret the information to enable the early identification of well being issues.

The project goal is to highlight early intervention opportunities thereby reducing care home and hospital admissions whilst increasing patient and carer confidence.

Explaining the background and the benefits of the project, Tynetec’s Managing Director Tony Platten said “the quality and increasing care cost people with general ageing and certain medical conditions combined with the impact of people living longer represent major challenges. Tynetec and its partners successfully bid for Technology Strategy Board funding to develop a project to deliver definitive and actionable data pertaining to the benefits that preventative telecare can deliver to individuals, carers and care providers”.

Technology Strategy Board Chief Executive commented “the technologies to be developed will bring social and economic benefits to the UK. We are delighted to offer our support”.

Tynetec will work with a national organisation – Aid Call, a subsidiary company of Age Concern – and three regional care providers: Darlington Borough Council, Intrahealth Ltd and Your Homes Newcastle. The University of Newcastle has been enrolled to collate and analyse the project data.

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Notes to Editors

1. The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its mission is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). For more information visit www.innovateuk.org.

2. Innovation Platforms are funded and managed by the Technology Strategy Board. They are a new way of working for government and business. Each focusing on a specific area of opportunity, innovation platforms are designed to address major policy and societal challenges. They bring together government stakeholders and funders and engage with business and the research community to identify appropriate action. In this way, policy, regulation and government procurement are aligned in support of innovative solutions. Through this approach, Innovation Platforms aim to deliver a step change in UK performance, in the quality of public services and the ability of UK businesses to provide solutions for the global marketplace. There are four other existing Innovation Platforms – Intelligent Transport Systems, Network Security, Low Carbon Vehicles and Low Impact Buildings – and the Technology Strategy Board is committing to introducing five further Platforms over the next three years.
3. The Department of Health funding is being provided from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) invention for innovation (i4i) R&D programme.