

Medical device start-up VenstraMedical receives BioMedTech Horizons grant to develop next-generation transcatheter blood pump

The Australian Government's BioMedTech Horizons (BMTH) program, operated by MTPConnect, has granted VenstraMedical \$850,000 to develop a ground-breaking miniaturised collapsible heart pump that will address the unmet clinical needs of patients who have suffered severe heart attacks.

VenstraMedical is developing a transcatheter heart pump that provides temporary cardiac support for patients suffering cardiogenic shock or haemodynamic compromise. The device, the 'SAVA System', is designed to be delivered into the heart via a catheter, inserted by a cardiologist without the need for surgery, providing rapid, life sustaining support for patients.

"We are exceptionally grateful to have been awarded this BioMedTech Horizons grant.," said Martin Cook, CEO and Co-founder of VenstraMedical. "Together with co-contributions, it provides almost \$1 Million of funding, enabling us to undertake a 21-month pre-clinical development program of our patented technology."

The SAVA device is inserted into the body in a collapsed state and expanded only once placed within the patient's heart where it then provides life sustaining circulatory support. The device is then collapsed for removal. The grant enables VenstraMedical to accelerate development of the system, which addresses a long-term market need for a small device that can be rapidly implanted and provide full cardiac support, a feature long desired by cardiologists.

Chief Medical Officer and Co-founder Dr Suku Thambar said "This device will significantly improve the delivery of haemodynamic support to sick cardiac patients. Through our development, we hope to expand its availability to more patients and has the potential to replace the incumbent technology in what is a billion-dollar market."

Key components of the SAVA system will be developed in collaboration with Melbourne based MedTech technology company, Hydrix, which has significant experience in the development of cardiac device control systems.

VenstraMedical Pty Ltd

The company is incorporated in Newcastle (NSW) and was founded by Martin Cook PhD and Dr Suku Thambar. Martin Cook has led multiple blood pump development programs through to regulatory approvals and has over 20 years of medical device development experience. Dr Suku Thambar is an interventional cardiologist who has had extensive experience in testing new medical devices and has previously developed and sold a catheter-based Mitral valve solution.

About Hydrix

Hydrix is an ASX-listed product design and engineering consultancy with a focus on cardiac, MedTech and connected medical device markets. Their service offering includes multidisciplinary engineering services, project management, clinical, regulatory, and quality systems expertise. They have a 15+ year track record of success in Ventricular Assist Devices and Total Artificial Heart control systems development.

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