

Serac Imaging Systems to develop a compact, hybrid optical/gamma camera which will be portable, smaller, easier to use and more cost effective than anything that exists on the market today.

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Serac Imaging Systems Limited (SIS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Serac Life Sciences Limited (SLS), is developing and commercialising a novel, compact, portable, hybrid gamma/optical camera (HGC) the IP for which has been exclusively licensed from a group of universities led by the University of Leicester.

This breakthrough technology has the potential to bring the benefits of molecular imaging to patients wherever they are; in the Nuclear Medicine department, in the operating room, in an intensive care unit, in a physician's office or even in a remote village in the developing world.

The high-resolution system is based upon technology designed originally for a space observatory by the University of Leicester and subsequently developed further for medical applications in a collaboration between the Space Research Centre, University of Leicester and the Queen's Medical Centre, University of Nottingham.

Nuclear Medicine is a routinely performed form of molecular imaging in which images of the uptake of targeted tracers labelled with minute amounts of radioactivity are captured with a gamma camera. However, the benefits of imaging are largely confined to patients who can be referred to a hospital's Nuclear Medicine department where the large, heavy and expensive conventional gamma cameras are sited in a fixed position in a dedicated room. A further unique feature of the HGC is coregistration of the gamma image with an optical image of the region of interest. We believe this adds important clinical information regarding the precise anatomical location of the molecular imaging tracer and will also aid the discussion between the physician and patient regarding their condition and the optimal treatment path.

David Hail, CEO of SLS said, "We're delighted to add the HGC to our portfolio of medical imaging technologies. We believe the HGC to be a truly innovative and potentially disruptive technology which has the potential to increase access to and reduce the cost of molecular imaging and help deliver personalised medicine to more patients resulting in improved outcomes, better quality of life and more effective use of healthcare resources.

Professor John Lees, Space Research Centre, University of Leicester commented, "We are very excited to work with Serac Imaging Systems and look forward to the day when the HGC is routinely used to benefit patients whether they are being imaged in the Nuclear Medicine Department, operating theatre, intensive care unit or in some remote location."

Professor Alan Perkins, Medical Physics, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham said "Having being involved with the development of the camera for some time and undertaken the first clinical trials in Nottingham I am delighted that the system will be further developed for more widespread clinical use. The extended application of state of the art nuclear medicine techniques into the operating theatre and at the bedside will be of benefit to many patients."

Further information:

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About molecular imaging

Molecular imaging is a type of medical imaging that provides unique insights into what is happening inside the body at the cellular and molecular level helping physicians to deliver "personalised medicine" – i.e. delivering the right treatment to the right patient at the right time. Unlike other medical imaging technologies such as x-rays, computed tomography (CT) and ultrasound (US) which provide structural images, molecular imaging allows physicians to see how cells, tissues and organs are functioning and to measure chemical and biological processes without having to resort to biopsy or surgery.

About Serac Life Sciences Limited

Serac Life Sciences is developing a portfolio of breakthrough molecular imaging technologies. These technologies are intended to help clinicians make better, more informed and more timely treatment decisions resulting in improved outcomes, better quality of life for patients and more effective use of healthcare resources. The HGC joins maraciclatide in our portfolio built from hitherto dormant assets which we believe can create value by making a substantial difference to patients and healthcare systems around the world.