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AMPCONTROL PARTNERS WITH WHITELEY IN \$5.6M CHRONIC WOUNDS RESEARCH GRANT

- Whiteley Corporation, University of Newcastle, Western Sydney University, and Ampcontrol granted Australian Government Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Program
- Grant to fund industry-lead medical research to solve chronic wound issues, which cost the healthcare system \$3.5 billion annually in Australia alone
- \$5.6M project to create better patient outcomes, decrease the cost of healthcare, sustain cutting-edge MedTech innovation, and boost jobs in Australian manufacturing

Ampcontrol is partnering with Whiteley Corporation in chronic wounds research after receiving a grant in Round 13 of the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) program which totals \$5.6 million over three years.

On 19 January 2023, **Minister for Industry and Science, Hon Ed Husic MP**, announced \$44 million in grants for Australian companies to support 19 collaborative research projects. Cooperative Research Centres Projects support companies working to commercialise cutting-edge ideas in collaboration with researchers and innovators.

Effective management of chronic wounds requires a combination of treatments that include wound debridement, an anti-biofilm treatment, wound mapping, and a deeper tissue perception of bacterial engagement beyond the wound surface, which cannot typically be seen.

This project brings together a collaborative team made up of Whiteley Corporation, ResTech - a joint venture between Ampcontrol and the University of Newcastle - and Western Sydney University to create a singular approach to wound care.

"This work will be of major medical impact worldwide. Chronic wounds start with a minor skin injury that doesn't heal but progresses to a problem costing \$3.5 billion in Australia alone," said **Associate Professor Greg Whiteley, Executive Chairman of Whiteley Corporation**.

"We are thrilled to be a partner in this industry-led medical research collaboration with the Whiteley Corporation, University of Newcastle, and Western Sydney University. The funding enables industry innovators, researchers, students, and end-users to work together to deliver real outcomes for our community and economy," said **Ampcontrol Managing Director & CEO Rod Henderson**.

The CRC-P grants are awarded through a competitive, merit-based selection process, assessed by an independent committee of industry experts. The CRC-P grants support industry-led research projects, offering matched funding of between \$100,000 and \$3 million. Grants are for a period of up to three years.

Professor Slade Jensen, from the **Western Sydney University's School of Medicine** and the **Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research (IIAMR)**, said "Once established, mature biofilms become recalcitrant to standard therapeutics. However, bacteria within biofilms are not visible to the naked eye. This project provides a rationale for the use of novel strategies to affect microbial biofilms and wound healing directly and indirectly".

Professor Zee Upton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation for the University of Newcastle, said, "Our researchers are renowned for finding new ways to help people live better, healthier lives; we also have a strong track record of working with industry partners to turn innovative ideas into real-world solutions".

The strength of industry partnership collaboration was evident at the height of the COVID pandemic when, working with clinicians at John Hunter Hospital, ResTech and Ampcontrol designed and built a fully functional emergency ventilator prototype for NSW Health in less than 18 days. Following clinical trials, the NSW Government selected the prototype to move into pre-production, which Ampcontrol rapidly manufactured in the Hunter region.

"We have shown what can be achieved here in Australia when strong partnerships exist between government, university, and industry. We have proven strength in local manufacturing capability and a highly skilled workforce ready for the next generation of product innovation", adds Mr. Henderson.

Ends.

Ampcontrol is Australia's largest privately-owned electrical engineering company leading advanced global manufacturing of award-winning innovations, products, solutions and service to the resources, infrastructure and energy sectors. Founded in Newcastle NSW in 1968, Ampcontrol has grown to over 950 employees across 30 operations worldwide.

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About Ampcontrol

- Ampcontrol is Australia's largest privately-owned electrical engineering company leading advanced global manufacturing of award-winning innovations, products, solutions and service to the resources, infrastructure and energy sectors.
- From humble beginnings founded by four friends in a small shed in Newcastle in 1968, Ampcontrol has grown to over 850 employees across 30 operations worldwide.
- Ampcontrol co-founder, Peter Cockbain AM, is named by Engineers Australia as one of Australia's top 100 influential engineers and in 2015 he became a Member of the Order for Australia for his significant services to engineering.
- Locations include New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT, Asia, India, Mongolia, UK, and France.
- Consists of 6 member companies; Ampcontrol, Captech, CPS National, ResTech, Verico Group, and Austech.
- The largest operation is located in the Hunter, NSW, with a combined manufacturing space totalling over 21,000sqm spread over 10 different sites.
- Designed and built lifesaving emergency ventilator prototypes for the NSW Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed the world's first IECEx certification for an explosion protected, hermetically sealed, nitrogen filled and pressurised mining transformer.
- Developed the industry's first 132kV emergency response mobile substation that has received RTA approval as a new special class type of vehicle due to its innovative design and ability to meet all road safety requirements.
- Developed Australia's first variable speed drive (VSD) installed on a longwall armored face conveyor in Moranbah North Longwall.
- Designed and developed a breakthrough remote water treatment system that transforms undrinkable water into pure water. Pilot project currently installed in a remote indigenous community in Gillen Bore, Northern Territory.

MULTI-AWARD WINNING ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND INNOVATION

- 2021 Good Design Award for Excellence In Engineering Design (Solar Qube)
- 2021 Hunter Manufacturing Award for 'Excellence In Product Design' (Solar Qube)
- 2021 Hunter Manufacturing Award for 'Collaboration Partnership' (Hybrid Diesel Electric Boat)
- 2020 Hunter Business Award for Excellence In Innovation & Adaptability for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Hunter Manufacturing Award for Collaboration Partnership for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Hunter Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Pivot for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Lake Macquarie Business Excellence In Innovation for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Consult Australia Awards for Excellence for Technological Innovation for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 [Institution of Civil Engineers](#) Chris Binnie Award for Sustainable Water Management for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 Engineering Excellence Award Newcastle Division for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 Good Design Award winner for Social Impact for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 NSW Mining Supplier of the Year
- 2020 Australian Water Association NSW Water Infrastructure Project Innovation Award for 'Gilghi'
- 2019 Hunter Business Excellence Award for Innovation' Gilghi'
- 2019 Good Design Award winner for Product Design – Commercial and Industrial for 'Rockstarter'
- 2019 Good Design Award winner for Engineering Design for 'Rockstarter'
- 2019 Scottish Engineering Awards – President's Award winner
- 2019 Lake Macquarie Business Excellence Award for Innovation for 'Gilghi'
- 2019 Mine Electrical Safety Conference Innovation Award for AFC VSD Moranbah North Longwall Project
- 2018 HunterNet Chairman Awards Excellence In Work Health Safety
- 2018 Hunter Business Awards Excellence In Business (20+ employees)
- 2018 NSW Minerals Council Outstanding Supplier for 'H3RO'
- 2017 Hunter Manufacturing Awards Excellence In Product Design for 'VoiceComm Phone'
- 2015 Engineers Australia Newcastle Engineering Excellence Award for 'Arc Fault Venting – Simulation and Practice'
- 2013 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Innovation' Management of VSD earth leakage currents in fault limited networks'
- 2010 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Excellence' Blakefield South 11kV longwall in partnership with Xstrata Coal and Joy Global'
- 1998 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Excellence 'iMAC'