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## Education & Science

### UCD spin-off sets up €3m R&D centre

**18.10.2007** - A medical technology company that was a spin-out from UCD's School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, has received funding €3m to establish an R&D centre in Belfast.

NovaUCD-based BiancaMed, which has developed a wireless sensor that can detect breathing and heart rate up to a distance of two metres, was set up in 2003 by Professor Conor Heneghan, Dr Philip de Chazal and Dr Conor Hanley.

BiancaMed has attracted funding of €358,577 (stg€250,000) from Invest NI, plus a further €2.5m in venture capital support from Draper Fisher Jurveston ePlanet Ventures and ResMed to commercialise its research.

The first application for BiancaMed's technology is a baby monitor, but the technology can be developed for use in other applications with life-saving potential, such as home health and exercise monitors.

The company will be launching the technology next week at a major US international life sciences event in Boston called the 2007 Connected Health Symposium.

BiancaMed's new R&D operation will be set up at the Queen's University Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT).

"This innovative technology has the potential to add significant momentum to the drive in modern healthcare towards effective care management for chronic diseases," said John Thompson, Invest NI's director of innovation.

"Through direct application to products as well as licensing it to other companies, BiancaMed has the potential to access a global market for its unique technology."

Dr Conor Hanley, chief executive of BiancaMed, said the company decided to locate its R&D centre in Belfast because of the cluster of world class telecoms and healthcare technology firms operator there as well as an abundance of engineering talent.

"The opportunity to work closely with world-renowned research teams in ECIT to develop the technology, and the support from Invest NI were also important factors in attracting the company to Belfast," Dr Hanley said.

By John Kennedy

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