

MEDIA BACKGROUND

Cambridge Medical Robotics

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Cambridge Medical Robotics (CMR) is developing the next-generation of surgical robot, Versius.

The team who created Versius consist of over 100 highly-skilled people based out of the company's headquarters in Cambridge, UK. Versius is CMR's first surgical robot and is due to be launched in 2018.

Versius will help to realise the untapped potential of robotic-assisted minimal access surgery for surgeons and patients across the globe, solving many of the problems encountered by existing surgical robotic systems, delivering a more genuinely affordable solution for healthcare systems worldwide.

Based out of a converted pig shed in the Cambridge countryside, the ambitions of this plucky British start-up are almost unlimited. The vision of the company is to have a robot in every major hospital in the world, and to be one of the largest surgical robot companies internationally within five years.

Mission

The company's mission is to make minimal access surgery available to all those who need it by breaking down the barriers that currently exist, including the size, cost and complexity of current surgical robotic systems.

About Versius

When launched, Versius will be the smallest surgical robot the world has ever seen. The robot's remarkable dexterity, flexibility and reach means that it can undertake more procedures, more easily, than any existing robot on the market. This flexibility, coupled with its portability, means that Versius is designed to be kept constantly busy, improving outcomes for more patients and representing a more cost-efficient solution for health systems.

Success to date

CMR has been expanding rapidly, more than doubling in the past 12 months. It has already secured more than 150 patents, a number which increases on a weekly basis. In July 2016, the company announced a Series A financing, which raised more than \$20 million.

While the perceived industry wisdom is that it takes a decade to bring a medical device to western markets, CMR has already successfully completed several key milestones ahead of filing for CE approval in 2018.

CMR leadership

The founders behind CMR's leadership team is made up of sharp business acumen and technical expertise hiring the best business, engineering and clinical expertise.

- **Martin Frost, Chief Executive Officer**, is a Cambridge graduate and a Chartered Management Accountant and is fearless in his ambition and determination to make CMR a disruptive force in the medical devices sector to revolutionise surgery.
- **Luke Hares is Technology Director** at CMR. Having previously developed medical products, surgical robots and medical implants, Luke was the visionary behind the company's breakthrough solution for minimal access surgery.
- **Keith Marshall is Engineering Director** at CMR. With over 20 years of experience in product development, Keith leads the mechanical engineering of Versius.
- **Paul Roberts is Operations Director** at CMR. Paul has more than 10 years product and system development experience. Paul is an expert in control system design, electronics and software development.
- **Mark Slack is Medical Director** at CMR. A Consultant Gynaecologist at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Mark co-founded the company and continues to advise the leadership team, providing invaluable clinical insight on the design and delivery of Versius to the surgical community.

What is Minimal Access Surgery?

Minimal access surgery (sometimes known as keyhole or minimally invasive surgery) is an alternative to open surgery that was pioneered around 40 years ago. It brings significant patient benefits in terms of quicker recovery time, less pain, reduced blood loss, and a reduced chance of getting an infection.¹ The risk of infection from a robotically assisted hysterectomy is reduced by almost a factor of three compared with open surgery (from 6.5 per cent to 2.2 per cent).²

However, there are an estimated six million open surgery procedures each year which could be performed using minimal access surgery minimising any drawbacks that result. However, lack of access to laparoscopic surgeons is one of the reasons this isn't happening and that is because laparoscopy is an incredibly difficult technique to master. It is both mentally and physically demanding for the surgeon³ while not all surgeons who take on the additional two years' worth of training reach the required standard. Robotically assisted laparoscopy significantly reduces the surgeon burden and can speed up training to a matter of months.

Media enquires

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¹ Agha R. et al. Does laparoscopic surgery spell the end of the open surgeon? Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. 2003 Nov: 96(11):544-546

² Colling K.P. et al. Abdominal Hysterectomy: Reduced Risk of Surgical Site Infection Associated with Robotic and Laparoscopic Technique. Surgical Infections 2015 Oct:16(5):498-503.

³ Plerhoples T.A. et al. The aching surgeon: a survey of physical discomfort and symptoms following open, laparoscopic, and robotic surgery. Journal of Robotic Surgery. 2012 6:65-72.