World-renowned Royal Papworth Hospital set to be first in UK to use Versius for thoracic surgery

- Royal Papworth, one of the world's leading cardiothoracic hospitals, has acquired Versius and is set to become the first UK hospital to use the system for thoracic surgery

- The first cases with Versius at Royal Papworth are due to start in spring 2023, following the completion of a comprehensive training programme by the surgeons and surgical team

Cambridge, United Kingdom. 22 March 2023 00:01 (GMT). CMR Surgical (CMR) – the global surgical robotics company – announces that Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, one of the world's leading cardiothoracic hospitals and the UK's main heart and lung transplant centre, has introduced the Versius® Surgical Robotic System, and is set to become the first hospital in the UK to use Versius for thoracic procedures.

Versius is suited to assisting surgeons overcome the challenges posed by operating with a minimally invasive approach in the lungs, thymus, and oesophagus. Through small incisions between the patients’ ribs, thoracic surgeons can work precisely and accurately in the chest cavity with Versius, benefitting from its small, fully wristed instruments and 3D HD vision. Moreover, the uniquely small and modular design of Versius allows the system to be set up in a way that gives the surgeon optimal access through the rib cage.

Tim Glenn, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Executive at Royal Papworth commented: “Our vision is to provide tomorrow's treatment to today's patients, and purchasing this Versius robot does just that, representing a significant investment in patient care. We are delighted to be working with our Cambridge neighbours at CMR Surgical.”

Mr Adam Peryt, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon at Royal Papworth said: “Thoracic surgeons have long been waiting for a surgical robot like Versius that is suited to our specific needs. Of course, we want all the benefits you’d expect of robotic-assisted surgery, but we also needed a system that allows us to continue using small instruments and ports that we can place exactly where is needed given the limitations of operating through the ribcage. Versius gives us this. I’m truly excited to see first-hand the benefits that Versius can bring to our patients.”

Mark Slack, Chief Medical Officer at CMR Surgical said: "We are delighted to be partnering with the world-class surgeons and surgical teams at Royal Papworth as the first to use Versius in thoracic surgery in the UK. Versius was designed to make the benefits of minimal access surgery available to more patients around the world, and we’re thrilled that thoracic patients in the UK will now be able to access to this type of treatment. Versius is well-suited to thoracic surgery, as the modular small form factor means that it can be set up in a way that allows optimal access through the rib cage, and the
small fully-wristed instruments can work precisely in the thoracic cavity. We look forward to working with Royal Papworth on bringing the benefits of this technology to as many patients as possible.”

Royal Papworth's team of highly skilled surgeons and surgical teams will now undergo CMR's data-led metrics-based training programme for Versius. The pathway focuses on surgeons and the wider surgical team achieving key competencies at each stage of the pathway to ensure standardisation in surgical skills, and includes in-person training, remote tele-mentoring and using virtual reality technology.

The first cases with Versius at Royal Papworth are due to start in spring 2023.

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Notes to editors:

About Royal Papworth Hospital

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is the UK’s leading heart and lung hospital, treating around 50,000 patients each year. The Trust is currently rated ‘outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), from an inspection carried out in 2019. It became the first hospital Trust in the country to receive the top rating of ‘outstanding’ in each of the five main domains that the CQC assesses. Since carrying out the UK’s first successful heart transplant in 1979, the hospital now performs more heart, heart-lung and lung transplants each year than any other UK centre.

Royal Papworth Hospital is a member of Cambridge University Health Partners (CUHP), a partnership between one of the world’s leading universities and three NHS Foundation Trusts. CUHP delivers world-class excellence in healthcare, research, clinical education and improves the health of people across Cambridgeshire, the East of England and nationally.

The Versius® Surgical Robotic System

Versius® resets expectations of robotic surgery. Versius fits into virtually any operating room set-up and integrates seamlessly into existing workflows, increasing the likelihood of robotic minimal access surgery (MAS). The small, portable and modular design of Versius allows the surgeon to only use the number of arms needed for a given procedure.

Biomimicking the human arm, Versius gives surgeons the choice of optimised port placement alongside the dexterity and accuracy of small fully-wristed instruments. With 3D HD vision, easy-to adopt instrument control and a choice of ergonomic working positions, the open surgeon console has the potential to reduce stress and fatigue and allows for clear communication with the surgical team.
By thinking laparoscopically and operating robotically with Versius, patients, surgeons and healthcare professionals can all benefit from the value that robotic MAS brings.

But it's more than just a robot. Versius captures meaningful data with its wider digital ecosystem to support a surgeon's continuous learning. Through the Versius Connect app, Versius Trainer and CMR clinical registry, Versius unleashes a wealth of insights to ultimately improve surgical care.

**About CMR Surgical Limited**

CMR Surgical (CMR) is a global medical devices company dedicated to transforming surgery with Versius®, a next-generation surgical robot.

Headquartered in Cambridge, United Kingdom, CMR is committed to working with surgeons, surgical teams and hospital partners, to provide an optimal tool to make robotic minimal access surgery universally accessible and affordable. With Versius, we are on a mission to redefine the surgical robotics market with practical, innovative technology and data that can improve surgical care.

Founded in 2014, CMR Surgical is private limited company backed by an international shareholder base.