

## Health Technology Devices Programme Management

### The Issue

A competitive process for awarding research funding is a powerful mechanism to generating high quality research proposals. However to be successful this approach needs to be supported by a robust and effective process to assess and prioritise the research bids.

### Quotec's Approach

Quotec manages the Health Technology Devices programme (HTD), a Department of Health funded scheme that supports the development of new medical devices and novel healthcare technologies in the UK. HTD opened in 2002 with a total of up to £15 million to support approximately 55 collaborative R&D projects involving industry, academia and the NHS.

Quotec's approach starts before the assessment process and concludes with formative feedback to all applicants. The key steps involved are:

- Attracting proposals for funding through publicity of the programme;
- Establishing clear guidelines for applicants and criteria for the assessment of proposals;
- Advising and assisting applicants in the preparation of applications, including review of draft proposals;
- In conjunction with the Department of Health managing an expert review committee which reviews all proposals at the outline and full submission stage;
- Arranging and managing a peer review process for all full submissions prior to consideration by the expert committee;
- Providing full support to the expert committee and peer review process by a secretariat function managed by the Quotec project manager; and
- Liaising between the programme stakeholders to ensure the research funded is aligned with their strategic objectives.

To assist with the processing of applications, Quotec has established and manages the Health Technology Portal ([www.healthtechnologyportal.org.uk](http://www.healthtechnologyportal.org.uk)), an interactive website providing background information and allowing the electronic preparation, submission and review of proposals, which was created in association with our collaborative partner, E-Tech Ltd.

### The Benefits

To date the programme has successfully processed almost 500 applications, and has committed over £12 million to support 43 projects addressing a diverse range of clinical challenges ranging from advance medical imaging technologies to rehabilitative devices and assistive technologies.



Following the initial success of the HTD programme, the Department of Health has committed to increase the total amount of funding in this area to £13M per year by 2009/10 under the new Invention for Innovation (i4i) funding stream. The i4i programme will build on existing HTD activities to help accelerate the development of new healthcare technologies and devices.