

## Case Study:

### Healthier Nottingham

# Advanced Protein Systems (APS)

Advanced Protein Systems was set up in June 2003 by Dr Roy Harris to develop a highly adaptable platform for the next generation of “active healing” chronic wound care products. The platform (i.e. the basis from which future products are developed) is based upon patented chemical reformulation of the clinically approved protein, serum albumin and utilises many unique qualities to potentially provide a revolutionary family of wound dressing products.

## Starting my science based business

Dr Roy Harris worked for many years in industry as a protein biopolymer research chemist, much of which enabled him to work on the characterisation and use of albumin in a range of clinical applications. He started APS using his own savings to redevelop technology for producing platelet substitutes for the management of internal bleeding. A fortuitous “mistake” in the laboratory, however, created an elusive biopolymer formula that allowed the company to move into the more appealing field of chronic woundcare. Refocusing the business with the help of Business Link advisors and a Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly Department for Trade and Industry) Grant for Research and Development managed by East Midlands Development Agency, enabled APS to become more appealing to private investors mainly because of a quicker route to market with its lead products. APS secured significant funding from private investors with help from Glen House Capital Strategies.

## Benefits of being based in Nottingham

Not an ideal place for private investment for new Small to Medium sized Enterprises - but it has a broad network of university, local industry and support groups to enable the start-up company to grow without having to venture far a field.

## Achievements so far

APS has raised significant private funding and received a Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly Department for Trade and Industry) Grant for Research and Development managed by East Midlands Development Agency to enable it to progress its first product “Albigel-P,” a co-polymer wound dressing into clinical trials. It is now developing its second product “CuGel,” a copper containing



gel, which has the potential to form a natural barrier to bacteria including MRSA, and to further enhance the wound healing process. Success of these products will hopefully lead to licensing opportunities with major woundcare and biotech companies and the commercialisation of the range of healthcare technologies.

## Plans for the future

**Dr Roy Harris comments: “The entrepreneur may have the ideas but it takes a team effort to realise success. Protect your knowledge and IP, seek advice at every stage and build the correct skill base.”**

APS will continue to develop its portfolio of products and expand into other healthcare markets using its platform technologies. Hopefully, they will continue to get support from the local science network and help to raise the profile of the East Midlands to attract future investment into the region.