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A*Star, University of Leeds sign medtech MoU

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Singapore: Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech), a research institute of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), and University of Leeds, UK, have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The two organizatons will collaborate on the R&D of innovative medical devices in mutually identified areas such as lab-on-chips, medical implants and implantable devices which include innovative joint replacements and biological scaffolds for cardiovascular and musculoskeletal tissue regeneration to improve quality of life.

The collaboration with the University of Leeds, well known for its research in medical and biological engineering, will help to fill the gap between material and engineering research to translate research outcomes from the lab to manufacturing readiness. It will also boost the exchange of experience, knowledge and information; engagements of specialists/students for study and consultation and interactions between academia/researchers in both institutions. Funding opportunities, shared use of facilities, academic collaboration and joint organisation of scientific events will also be explored.

Dr Lim Ser Yong, executive director of SIMTech, commented that, "The collaboration is a synergistic platform to translate medical science breakthroughs and innovations to effective and affordable medical devices by leveraging on engineering and manufacturing research capabilities of both institutions. With SIMTech's precision engineering and high value manufacturing capabilities coupled with a strong industry partnership track record, the institute is able to optimise its integrated technology capabilities in process, automation and manufacturing systems to grow the local Medtech industry."

Professor John Fisher, director, Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering at the University of Leeds, commented "We have seen a significant increase in demand for medical devices that is driven by the needs of the ageing population and an expectation for increased reliability and performance. The collaboration with SIMTech provides an excellent opportunity to support the development of medical devices that will more clinically and cost effectively match implant function and therapy to patient need."