

## **Devon pharmaceutical firm expands with new business**

A decision to expand a successful Devon-based pharmaceutical firm with a new spin-out company has been welcomed today by the South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA).

Opal Healthcare, which relocated from Oxfordshire to South Brent in 2006, has strengthened its presence in the region by creating OI Sciences Limited which will focus on the development, sales, marketing and distribution of custom made and unique hospital generic injectable drugs for hospital physicians, pharmacists and patients.

The firm, which has premises at the Kingswood Court Business Park, has been in business since 2003 and is a supplier to the UK National Health Service as well as other European countries and the Middle East.

Yasmin Crawford, C.E.O of OI Sciences Limited, previously Managing Director of Opal Healthcare Limited said: "We were fast outgrowing our distribution centre in Oxfordshire and so we needed larger premises in order to expand the business. The South West was a clear favourite with an established network of medical technology companies, strong links to the local universities and teaching hospitals and the concentration of innovative technologies in the region meant we'd have no problem recruiting skilled staff."

"Our position in the South West of England gives us an important strategic advantage. We are at the heart of a thriving bio-medical cluster and plan to forge relationships with companies that can help us with analytical testing, formulation, manufacture and sales and marketing. The move to Devon was absolutely the right decision and we have succeeded in helping our team at Opal and now OI Sciences strike a much better work/life balance as a result."

"We are extremely delighted to announce that OI Sciences since conception in April 2008 has secured 4 NHS tenders for two recently launched injectable products. The first order was placed by the Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital for a new 50ml size of and antifungal infusion. OI Sciences will utilise the distribution experience of Opal to supply the medicines to the NHS directly"

Ian Thompson, Area Director for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay at the South West RDA said: "We are delighted that Opal Healthcare is prospering in such a way that it allows for further expansion in the region with the creation of this new spin-out company. Biotechnology is one of the RDA's priority sectors and we are particularly pleased to be supporting the development of businesses like this one."

He continued: "This announcement by Opal Healthcare is testament to the emerging cluster of excellence in this field that we have here in the South West. The RDA is particularly pleased to see this sector flourish and this is a key area where the Agency will focus its investment, as part of our wider vision."

Tim Jones, Chairman of Devon and Cornwall Business Council added: "It is great news to hear that Opal Healthcare is expanding its operations here in Devon. This is further evidence that the very important healthcare and health products sector is growing into a cluster which will assist in driving both skills and take-home pay. The South West is increasingly becoming a more attractive region in which to set up and do business and is regarded as a highly desirable place to live and work. Opal is a shining example of how this sector is adding real value to the local economy and helping the South West to remain competitive in worldwide market places."

The South West RDA leads the development of a sustainable economy, investing to unlock the region's business potential. It works in partnership with public, private and social purpose organisations to drive up the region's productivity by giving people the skills they need, encouraging enterprise, improving infrastructure, regenerating places, and promoting the strengths of the region.

For more information on the South West RDA see [www.southwestrda.org.uk](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk)