

# Life-saving innovation in Merseyside

Medical Device Innovations (MDI), based at Daresbury, is the March winner of the 2007 Merseyside Innovations Awards. The company is developing a device for life-saving treatment in emergency situations.

Pneumothorax is a life-threatening condition that can occur in road traffic accidents where there is a chest wound and can lead to death within minutes. While there are already devices in use, these need assembling before use and can prove difficult in emergency situations. MDI's Thoraquik is a fit-for-purpose device that does not require any pre-assembly.

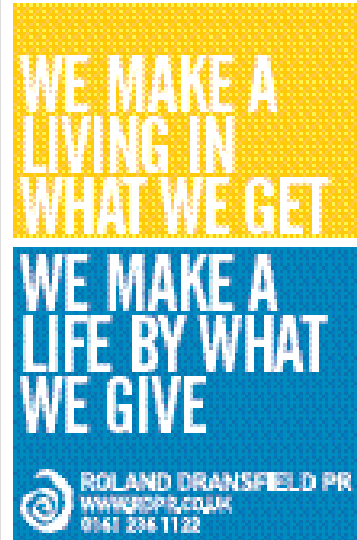
Inventor Dr Iain McNeil, medical director for the Surrey and Kent Ambulance Services, hopes that all ambulances in the UK will carry the device. Tom Kink of MDI said: "Many ingenious inventions never get developed due to the difficulty for clinicians to receive funding and support to develop their ideas. We have a growing network of engineering and manufacturing companies in the region to support us in the development."

The awards are open to individuals or companies with fewer than 50 employees in the Merseyside region, with a great

idea that is innovative, has commercial potential and will have an impact on the region. They will be eligible to win £10,000 cash, £4,000 of legal, business, accounting or design consultancy, support from leading business advisers and publicity for the idea.

Each month a winner will be selected to join the shortlist before the grand final in July, where three finalists will showcase their products and an overall winner will be selected and the major prize presented ▶

For further information visit [www.merseysideinnovation-awards.co.uk](http://www.merseysideinnovation-awards.co.uk)



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