

ELLEX MEDICAL LASERS LIMITED

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Ellex Medical offered \$3.3 million AusIndustry Research and Development Grant

Ellex Medical Lasers Limited (ELX) today announced that the company had been offered a \$3.3 million *R&D Start* grant through the Australian Government's business unit AusIndustry.

AusIndustry is the Australian Government's agency for delivering products, services and information that support industry, research and innovation.

The grant will help the company develop Ophthalmic Lasers and associated delivery systems, specifically for the retinal market, from its base in Adelaide, South Australia.

The grant relates to projects undertaken by Ellex between October 2003 and June 2006.

Ellex Managing Director, Mr Victor Previn, said the grant was significant recognition of Ellex's experience in developing world leading Ophthalmic devices.

"Ellex has built a global reputation for producing Ophthalmic Lasers of a very high quality that are considered leading edge," Mr Previn said.

"The AusIndustry grant will assist our company in its goal of continuing to build an exciting product range for the retinal market, a global market considered to be worth US\$150-200 million per annum.

Mr Previn said the company had previously secured an R&D grant from the Australian Government in the late 1980's, which was directly attributable to generating \$100 million in export revenue over the past 10 years and an employment base of more than 100 people.

"The Board of Ellex is extremely grateful to the Australian Government for once again offering financial support which we believe will be significant in further developing the company's product range."

In August 2003, Ellex announced an aggressive product development strategy involving additional investment over the next three years to accelerate product development as a platform for growth in revenue and profitability.

About AusIndustry R&D Start Grant Program

The Australian Government's R&D Start grant program is administered by the Government's business unit AusIndustry. From January to October last year, 104 companies across the country were awarded a total of more than \$98 million in grants and loans through the program.

R&D Start, is a competitive merit-based program that provides grants and loans to assist businesses to undertake research and development and has a focus on projects with a high potential for commercialisation.

It is one of the Australian Government's most successful programs, and since its launch about six years ago has provided assistance to more than 1,000 companies.

AusIndustry supports the innovation of Australian businesses to improve their international competitiveness and attract investment.

AusIndustry delivers through its 27 grants, loans, venture capital, tax and duty concession products nearly \$2 billion to some 9000 customers every year around Australia, through its 21 State and regional offices.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact:

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