

10 Small business Done Deal

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Money Plus

Cork firm awarded €1m to conduct space-age research

BY ELAINE O'REGAN

The European Space Agency (ESA) has awarded a €1 million contract to Radisens Diagnostics in Cork to develop a blood testing device for astronauts.

The agreement will see Radisens extend the blood testing menu on a point-of-care device it is developing, for possible future use on board the International Space Station (ISS) and on human

spaceflight missions where laboratory-grade results are required from blood tests, without the threat of biological contamination.

The agreement follows an existing agreement between the ESA and Radisens dating back to 2011.

Radisens is developing technology that can speed up blood-testing processes, taking it away from hospital-based phlebotomists and bringing it to GP clinics, outpatient departments, emer-

gency rooms and small-to-medium-sized hospital labs.

Its multi-mode diagnostic device can be used to obtain laboratory-grade results within minutes, using a finger-prick of blood.

"The operational needs on board the ISS, which requires leading-edge performance, ease-of-use and biological containment, provide Radisens with a unique test-bed for our game-changing point-of-care platform," said Radisens' chief executive Jerry O'Brien.

RADISENS DIAGNOSTICS

Done Deal: €1 million

The clincher: "Performing rapid analysis of astronauts' blood samples and monitoring their physiological parameters onboard the International Space Station, without having to download the samples from the ISS to the ground laboratories, is a feature with utmost interest that the Radisens' point-of-care platform proposes to develop." - **Francois Gaubert**, technical officer, European Space Agency



Jerry O'Brien