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Intelect Medical secures money to expand trials

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Intelect Medical Inc., the Cleveland Clinic spin-off that is developing deep-brain stimulation therapies, has closed a \$7 million financing round from Boston Scientific Corp. and Greatbatch Inc.

Intelect was founded in 2005 with technologies developed by Dr. Ali Rezai, director of the Clinic's Center for Neurological Restoration, other Clinic doctors and researchers, and Dr. Nicholas Schiff, director of the Laboratory of Cognitive Neuromodulation at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Intelect, based in downtown Cleveland, plans to use its Series B money to expand clinical feasibility trials for its brain-modulating systems that could be used to treat traumatic brain injury and stroke, said Vincent Owens, the company's president and chief executive, in a written statement.

"It is gratifying to see our technology and therapies move from the lab and closer to patient care," Rezai said in the statement.

Greatbatch, the maker of medical device components in Clarence, N.Y., got a 19-percent interest in Intelect in April when it acquired Cleveland medical technology developer Biomec Inc., said Anthony Borowicz, treasurer and investor relations director for Greatbatch.

Investing more money in Intelect keeps Greatbatch's minority interest at about the same percentage, Borowicz said.

The Clinic and Cornell Research Foundation Inc. also have ownership stakes in Intelect.

Intelect's ability to attract money from outside investors is a validation of the Clinic's spin-off model, as well as the company's technology, said Christopher Coburn, executive director of CCF Innovations, the Clinic's commercialization unit. Coburn also acknowledged a \$7.8 million grant from Ohio's Third Frontier program to a consortium of neurostimulation and neuromodulation organizations in 2003, which helped launch Intelect.

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