

Cleveland's Imalux gets OK for medical device

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Imalux Corp. has raised more capital and has received government approval for an accessory to the diagnostic medical imaging device that it expects to start selling this fall.

Midway through a financing round that is likely to close at the end of September, the Cleveland startup company has raised about \$3.7 million toward a goal of \$5 million,

"We have a lot of interest, and I'm pretty confident we'll at least have the commitments [for the remainder] in the next few weeks," J. Lloyd Breedlove, Imalux president and chief executive, said Thursday.

Lead investor in the current round is Biomec, Inc., a Cleveland medical device maker that is expected to begin building Imalux's Niris Imaging System around October. Others include Cleveland-area investors Early Stage Partners LP, Symark LLC, RMS Investment Corp. and BioInfo Accelerator Ltd.; and Reservoir Venture Partners of Columbus.

The company has now raised \$9.3 million since its founding eight years ago.

Niris uses an imaging technology developed in Russia called optical coherence tomography, or OCT. An infrared beam that emanates from a hand-held probe gives doctors real-time images of patients' tissue structures.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the system in March and recently approved a disposable sterile sheath that covers the probe to prevent the spread of germs. The probe can be used to produce images of tissue externally or internally.

Imalux says OCT has the potential to become as commonly used in diagnostic imaging as X-ray, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography and nuclear imaging.

The portable device, little bigger than a laptop computer, is intended for doctors' offices as well as hospitals and imaging centers. Breedlove said it will be priced at less than \$50,000.

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