

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg today visited Surgical Innovations (SI) - a designer and manufacturer of creative solutions for minimally invasive surgery ('MIS') - to congratulate them on successfully signing the Regional Growth Fund Final Grant Offer Letter, a fund which is worth up to £5.05m to SI in Government funding.

During the visit to the Leeds based company the Deputy Prime Minister met the SI team and saw first-hand how the monies will be used to develop a state of the art research and development facility and clinical training centre; with a reasonable expectation of creating over 300 jobs in the Leeds City region over the next 12 years.

The RGF is a £2.4bn fund operating across England to be invested over a three year period. The fund supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment creating economic growth and sustainable employment. It aims particularly to help those areas and communities currently dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity. As part of the agreement SI will commit to £8.7m in capital investment by the end of 2015.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said: "Surgical Innovations secured £5.05m of the fund which will see the firm catalysing a health technologies hub for the city and create hundreds of jobs. Just like in Yorkshire, local economies across the country are seeing the direct benefits of this funding through new jobs and additional investment. That is what the Regional Growth Fund is all about."

The RGF grant will benefit SI by contributing infrastructure funding to implement the Company's long term strategy for growth through enhanced product development in new clinical areas of Minimally Invasive Surgery. It will enable the creation of a clinical training centre allowing SI to further the relationships it has with leading clinicians, both in the UK and internationally, and will act as a magnet for pioneering surgeons looking to develop new skills and instrumentation in minimal invasive surgery.

Graham Bowland, Chief Executive Officer for Surgical Innovations, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg to SI and it was an honour to show him around our facilities. The visit allowed us to discuss with him the benefits of signing the Regional Growth Fund document, which will allow SI's profile to grow internationally, deliver sustainable jobs and achieve future growth for the Company and the Leeds City Region through establishment of the Leeds Innovation Health Hub."

Leeds City Region is a key strategic centre for the healthcare industry hosting many medical technology companies within the area, as well as leading universities and one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe. The creation of a Leeds Innovation Health Hub will unite and create further synergies and collaboration opportunities between the clinicians, industry and public bodies with the aim of developing innovative technologies.

Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, added: "The announcement by SI is a very welcome example of how the city region's strengths are combining to deliver the jobs and skills needed in the future. It is a clear demonstration of the excellence of our existing health and medical business base, and lays the foundation for much more investment in the sector in the future."

