

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE ADVANCES MEDTECH INNOVATION CAPABILITIES WITH THE OPENING OF MEDTECH CATAPULT



(From left to right) Mr Beh Kian Teik (Chief Executive, A*STAR), Dr Tan See Leng (Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry), Mr Soh Leng Wan (Assistant Managing Director (Manufacturing), Enterprise SG), Mr Choo Heng Tong (Executive Vice President, EDB), Mr Wong Anwei (Executive Director, Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association (SPETA))

Singapore, 12 February 2025 – MedTech Catapult, a national initiative hosted by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), officially opened its doors at Biopolis today. First announced during the Committee of Supply debate in March 2024, this S\$38 million initiative aims to accelerate the development and commercialisation of high-value life science instruments and medical devices. It provides dedicated support to help MedTech innovators and product owners bring their products from concept to market and connect them with local contract manufacturing enterprises. Guest-of-Honour Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry officiated the launch of MedTech Catapult.

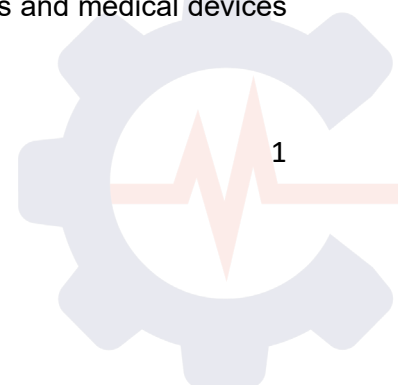
Accelerating Innovation in The Medtech Sector

Many MedTech innovators and product owners face challenges in product engineering, regulatory approval, quality assurance and scalable manufacturing, limiting their ability to bring innovations to market. MedTech Catapult addresses these gaps to help fast-track the market readiness of MedTech products. Through close collaboration with clinicians, regulators, and industry, MedTech Catapult empowers MedTech innovators and product owners of life science instruments and medical devices

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<https://a-star.edu.sg/medtechcatapult>

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to scale their innovations, ultimately bringing enhanced treatment options to patients worldwide. MedTech Catapult's design and development expertise also uplift local contract manufacturing organisations by strengthening their capabilities, enabling greater production of regulated MedTech devices in Singapore.

In its first year, MedTech Catapult has supported projects such as **Customize's Remouldable Orthopaedic Cast** (4D-printed remouldable short arm cast for wrist fractures) and **Dornier MedTech's Smart System for Enhanced Laser Lithotripsy** (kidney stone treatment). Both companies are leveraging MedTech Catapult's expertise in medical device design and development, as well as manufacturing optimisation to scale their innovations. More details on these projects can be found in Annex A.

Official Launch of The Supplier and Contract Manufacturer Directory

MedTech Catapult also unveiled a local supplier and contract manufacturer directory titled "*Medtech Manufacturing in Singapore: A Commitment to Engineering Excellence.*" Jointly supported by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), A*STAR, Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), and Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association (SPETA), this directory highlights the differentiated capabilities of local manufacturers. It serves as snapshot of local capabilities for MedTech product owners to identify potential local partners for co-innovation opportunities and scaling production efficiently. It will also be continuously updated to connect MedTech innovators to the right manufacturing partners, enabling meaningful collaborations.

Dr Mary Kan, Programme Director for MedTech Catapult said, "The local supplier and contract manufacturer directory reflects MedTech Catapult's commitment to supporting Singapore's MedTech ecosystem. This directory serves as a vital tool to connect product owners with a network of partners offering specialised capabilities, fostering collaboration and innovation, driving economic growth and reinforcing Singapore's position as a MedTech hub."

Ms Irene Cheong, Assistant Chief Executive (Innovation & Enterprise) at A*STAR, said, "A*STAR is committed to nurturing a dynamic innovation ecosystem that bridges research with industry. Through purposeful productization, our national platforms such as MedTech Catapult guide MedTech innovations from ideation to regulatory approval and scalable manufacturing, ensuring they are market-ready. We look forward to strengthening partnerships with innovators, product owners, and local contract manufacturers to drive next-generation healthcare solutions, creating value for Singapore's MedTech ecosystem and the global healthcare market."

The launch of MedTech Catapult reinforces Singapore's commitment to drive the development of transformative healthcare solutions, solidifying its position as a global leader in MedTech innovation.

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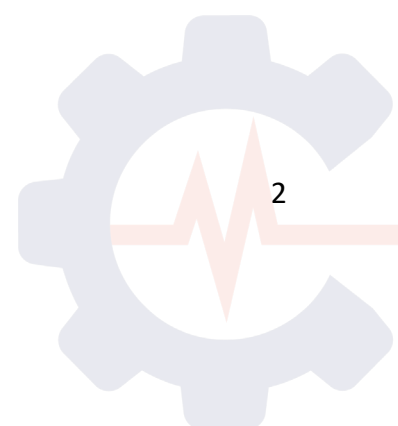
Enclosed:

Annex A – Selected Projects by MedTech Catapult

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About MedTech Catapult

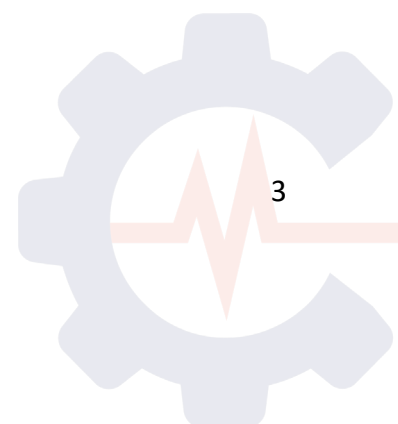
MedTech Catapult (MC) is a national initiative designed to accelerate the product development and commercialisation of high-value life science instruments and regulated medical devices. MC partners with product owners, local contract manufacturers (CMs), and leverages external design houses, and other key stakeholders to guide innovations from concept to market. Their goal is to strengthen Singapore's MedTech ecosystem by providing dedicated engineering, quality assurance, regulatory affairs, clinical affairs, project management and commercialisation support to derisk and support products towards commercialisation and market adoption whilst supporting pull-through to local manufacturing.

About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency. Through open innovation, we collaborate with our partners in both the public and private sectors to benefit the economy and society. As a Science and Technology Organisation, A*STAR bridges the gap between academia and industry. Our research creates economic growth and jobs for Singapore, and enhances lives by improving societal outcomes in healthcare, urban living, and sustainability. A*STAR plays a key role in nurturing scientific talent and leaders for the wider research community and industry. A*STAR's R&D activities span biomedical sciences to physical sciences and engineering, with research entities primarily located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis. For ongoing news, visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

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ANNEX A

SELECTED PROJECTS BY MEDTECH CATAPULT

Remouldable Orthopedic Cast

Castomize, a spin-off from the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), is revolutionising orthopaedic care with its advanced remouldable casts and splints, designed for greater adaptability, patient comfort, and ease of clinical application. Their short arm cast, which conforms to patients' recovery stages, has been registered as a Class A medical device with Singapore's Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS). It is currently undergoing clinical testing in five hospitals and private clinics across Singapore and South Korea.

Beyond fracture management, Castomize is expanding its technology into prosthetics and pet health applications, broadening its impact across healthcare sectors. MedTech Catapult will support Castomize in refining the design and manufacturing of its next-generation product, ensuring scalability and efficient production to meet growing demand.



*Remouldable short arm cast by Castomize
 (Image credit: Castomize)*

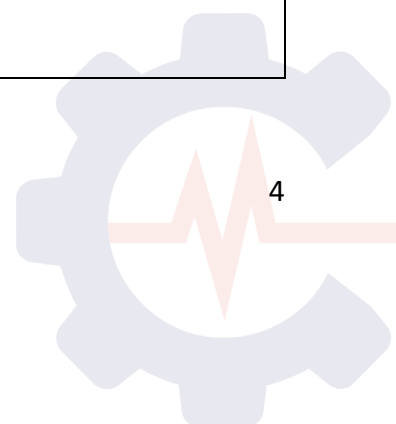
Smart System for Enhanced Laser Lithotripsy (Kidney Stone Treatment)

Dornier MedTech, a subsidiary of Advanced MedTech, has partnered with A*STAR and Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH) to develop an intelligent system to support laser lithotripsy, aimed at enhancing patient outcomes in kidney stone treatment.

The project harnesses multidisciplinary expertise across advanced modelling and simulation, and mechanical product system development and integration. With contributions



*Visualisation model of urinary tract
 (Image credit: iStock)*



from the A*STAR Institute of High Performance Computing (A*STAR IHPC), the team formulated the concept of an intelligent system to support laser lithotripsy procedure, aiming for improved safety and effectiveness. A prototype has been developed to validate the concept, with MedTech Catapult supporting component sourcing and refinement to prepare it for user testing.

This innovation originated from the UroXChallenge, a platform led by Dornier MedTech in collaboration with A*STAR and the National Health Innovation Centre Singapore (NHIC) to drive advancements in urology. The project team was further strengthened by the expertise of MedTech Catapult and Singapore Biodesign, which contributed medical device development capabilities to transform the initial research into a functional prototype.

The project's successful progress culminated in a Research Collaboration Agreement (RCA) signed today between Dornier MedTech, A*STAR IHPC, Singapore Biodesign, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and MedTech Catapult to further refine the device and advance its readiness for market adoption.

