

Texas Manufacturers Assistance Center Honors MedHab

Kevin Parker August 1, 2013



Innovation, collaboration cited in recognition of physical therapy technology

MedHab, whose technology allows providers to customize physical therapy regimens to meet the individual needs of patients in clinic and remotely, has been recognized by the **Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC)** for “world class and next generation manufacturing practices, including innovation, workforce development, collaboration, growth and market development, sustainable practices and continuous improvement.”

Incorporated in 2008 and a client of **TECH Fort Worth**, MedHab has two certified patents and eight patents pending and its technology is applicable for rehabilitation for lumbar spine and upper extremities. It has developed **StepRite** for healthcare and **RPM2** for retail applications.

TMAC recognizes a handful of Texas companies annually with its Customer Performance Excellence Award. MedHab will be honored August 7 at its manufacturing facility in San Angelo by U.S. Congressman Mike Conaway.

“MedHab is absolutely honored to receive this prestigious award,” said CEO **Johnny Ross**. “Not only is it a testament to the many engineers who have helped to develop our technology, but more importantly, it is a demonstration of how TMAC, which receives federal funding, is helping entrepreneurs create jobs in Texas.”

The Federal funds are from The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), whose field staff of 1,300 technical experts nationwide work with small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers to help them create and retain jobs, increase profits and save time and money. MedHab worked with the Texas affiliate of the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension

TMAC delivers hands-on technical assistance and training to a wide range of businesses, including manufacturing, government and health care. It has an array of services that improve efficiency, quality and productivity. Focus areas include Lean Enterprise, technology solutions, strategic management, quality systems, environment and safety.

TMAC provided technical support through its Metroplex Regional office at University of Texas-Arlington Office of Research and through its west Texas office at Texas Tech University.

“MedHab is a wonderful example of collaboration with multiple TMAC regional centers as well as strategic partners such as Tech Fort Worth, Athens Bio-Medical Manufacturing Center, the SBA’s Small Business Development Network, municipalities such as San Angelo, other colleges and universities and the private sector,” said **Deborreh Wallace** of TMAC. “Working with MedHab to advance its product toward commercialization has been challenging and very rewarding; we look forward to its market success in the sports and healthcare sectors.”

MedHab’s technology was invented by Ross after surgery on his leg. He realized that there had to be a better way to help physical therapists and surgeons evaluate patients throughout the physical therapy process. MedHab technology allows providers to customize physical therapy regimens to meet the individual needs of patients. Remote technology is the fastest growing segment in medical devices and already has proved advantageous in regards to cost reduction for the delivery of services.

During November 2012, MedHab made a strategic shift to develop new software to create a device that helps athletes and coaches determine bi-lateral equivalence of the legs. Athletes that are bi-laterally equivalent are stronger, faster and perform at a higher level. To that end, MedHab developed **RPM2** (remote performance measurement and monitoring), which launches August 2013.

MedHab and the **Running Network** have an RPM2 partnership agreement and MedHab is in negotiations with United States of America Triathlon (USAT) regarding a partnership agreement. “Coaches are embracing technology as ways to bring more science into coaching and give them more time for the art of coaching,” said **Larry Eder**, President of Running Network. “We encourage all coaches to use RPM2.”

TECH Fort Worth is a nonprofit technology incubator, with offices at the James E. Guinn Complex in Fort Worth South and at the UNT Health Science Center’s Center for BioHealth. Its mission is to grow the local technology-based economy. For more information, go to www.techfortworth.org.

- See more at: <http://dallas.citybizlist.com/contributed-article/texas-manufacturers-assistance-center-honors-medhab#sthash.pMGv94wh.dpuf>