

Snowden Healthcare:

Enhancing Joint Patch Performance Through Innovation with MeTAP Support

## AT A GLANCE

- **Company:** Snowden Healthcare
- **Sector:** Consumer Health / Wellbeing
- **Previous recognition:** Winner of a Medilink Midlands Innovation Award
- **MeTAP support accessed:** Formula development and patch manufacturing expertise
- **Key outcome:** Accelerated R&D to improve efficacy and delivery of an existing joint patch product

## THE CHALLENGE

Snowden already had a joint patch product on the market, designed to support customers with joint discomfort and mobility issues. As the business evolved, it became clear that both the formula and delivery mechanism could be improved to enhance:

- Performance
- Wearability
- Customer outcomes

The ambition was to develop a new, differentiated joint patch combining an improved formulation with Lipodisq delivery technology, enabling active ingredients to penetrate further and more quickly. At the time, no comparable joint patch products using Lipodisq were known to be available in the market.

To achieve this improvement, Snowden Healthcare needed access to specialist formulation science and patch manufacturing expertise.

The development process required:

- Reformulating the patch to improve efficacy and delivery
- Integrating Lipodisq technology with active ingredients and adhesives
- Producing lab-scale samples for testing
- Meeting strict internal KPIs including:
  - Adhesion on first contact with skin
  - Skin tolerance
  - Wearability and durability
  - Ease of removal

Progressing from concept through lab-scale development, testing and trial production required external specialist support.

## METAP SUPPORT

Through MeTAP, Snowden Healthcare accessed grant funding to support specialist formulation development and manufacturing expertise.

Support included:

- Specialist formula development expertise to refine and optimise the joint patch formulation
- Technical input to integrate Lipodisq delivery technology with active ingredients and adhesives
- Development of lab-scale and trial production batches
- Structured testing against performance KPIs

This support enabled Snowden to de-risk the development process and move forward with structured testing and validation.

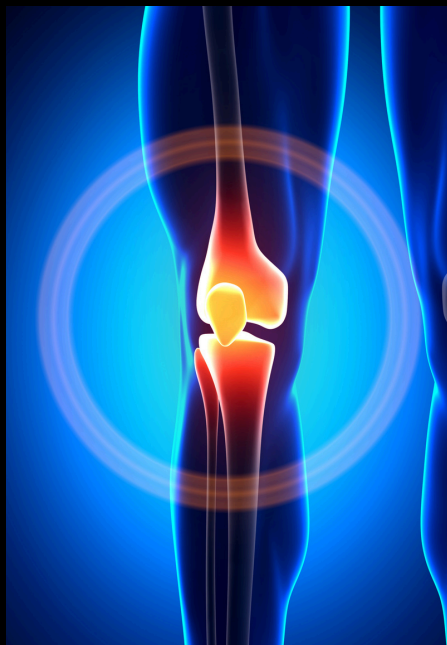
## IMPACT & OUTCOMES

The MeTAP-funded project enabled Snowden Healthcare to successfully progress the development of the improved joint patch.

Key outcomes include:

- Development of a revised patch formulation incorporating Lipodisq delivery technology
- Extensive testing to encapsulate active ingredients within Lipodisqs
- Successful encapsulation verified through independent third-party testing
- Preparation for the next phase of scaled-up trial production

These results provide a strong technical foundation for commercial production and product launch.



## ADDED VALUE OF METAP

Without MeTAP support, accessing this level of specialist formulation and manufacturing expertise would have been extremely challenging.

The programme enabled Snowden Healthcare to:

- Accelerate development timelines
- Reduce technical risk
- Validate the innovation through structured testing
- Move forward with greater confidence toward production

## LOOKING AHEAD

Snowden Healthcare is now preparing for the next stage of development and commercialisation.

Next steps include:

- Scaled-up production of the improved joint patch
- Final product validation
- Commencement of UK and international sales during 2026

## SME PERSPECTIVE

“We would fully recommend any SME considering MeTAP support to get involved in the programme – it can really help support project innovation for SMEs.”

**Brendan McElroy, R&D Director, Snowden Healthcare**



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