ANNUAL REPORT 2025

medtech odense

BEHIND MEDTECH ODENSE:

SDU
University of Southern Denmark

Region of Southern Denmark

OUH
Odense University Hospital
Svendborg Hospital

CITY OF ODENSE

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A STRONG FIRST YEAR: FROM VISION TO ACTION

MedTech Odense is a strategic and committed partnership established in October 2024 between the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), the Region of Southern Denmark (RSD), Odense University Hospital (OUH) and the other regional hospitals, as well as the Municipality of Odense.

MedTech Odense was created to strengthen the development of health technology solutions that can make a real difference in healthcare. In 2025, the vision moved from idea to action.

As a locally funded initiative with national and international ambitions, MedTech Odense brings together researchers, clinicians, industry, students and decision-makers around a shared goal: to accelerate the journey from clinical need to applied solutions. We create new and stronger frameworks for collaboration where new knowledge, technology, and clinical practice meet in the early phases, ensuring that solutions are developed close to those who will ultimately use them.

The first year has demonstrated both the need and the willingness to collaborate across disciplines and organisations. MedTech Odense has accelerated health technology innovation with a particular focus on areas such as robotics and AI, while laying a strong foundation for engaging even more disciplines, ideas and partnerships in the years to come.

> *We entered 2025 with a clear ambition to move from idea to action. The first year has confirmed that there is both willingness and strong potential within the ecosystem to collaborate on health technology innovation.*

Thomas K. Kristensen
Vice Head of MedTech Odense, Head of Innovation, OUH

> *MedTech Odense was created to unite efforts across research, clinical practice, and industry. By investing time, funding and competences early, we strengthen the conditions for turning strong ideas into solutions that make a difference in healthcare and create sustainable growth.*

Head of MedTech Odense and SDU RIO,
Director of Research and Innovation, SDU

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

A sincere thank you to all researchers, clinicians, private businesses, municipalities, students, advisors and partners who contributed their time, knowledge and energy in 2025. A special thanks also to the many colleagues and working groups who helped shape MedTech Odense from the very beginning.

We look forward to building on this strong foundation in the years ahead. In this annual report, we share experiences, results, and perspectives from the first year of MedTech Odense and outline the next steps in the development of health technologies of the future.
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CATALYST FOR INNOVATION

MedTech Odense is established to develop, mature and implement health technology solutions – acting as an active catalyst that connects needs, people and competences across systems and sectors. Our task is to move strong ideas more quickly and effectively from clinical challenges to validated health technology solutions, while accelerating commercialisation, implementation, and scaling of new products.

From clinical needs to applied solutions

The starting point for MedTech Odense is a concrete clinical need. This is where challenges are most evident and where the potential for value creation is greatest. Projects initiated and funded by MedTech Odense are rooted in clinical practice, research and new knowledge, and actively involve the healthcare system to ensure that projects target real-world challenges. This approach ensures that innovation addresses genuine healthcare needs and leverages the latest research. When clinicians, researchers and technical experts collaborate around a clearly defined need, it creates a strong foundation for solutions that improve patient care, support healthcare professionals and contribute to a more sustainable healthcare system.

A bridge between research, clinical practice and industry

MedTech Odense brings together research, clinical practice and business perspectives. Stakeholders are connected through concrete projects, as well as workshops, seminars and events that support interdisciplinary knowledge sharing and collaboration.

The unique partnership between the University of Southern Denmark, the Region of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital and the region's other hospitals, as well as the Municipality of Odense, enables collaboration across organisational and disciplinary boundaries and ensures that the entire innovation pathway is considered from the outset.

This means that projects are developed through an integrated approach where clinical insight, research-based knowledge, technological development and an understanding of implementation and market dynamics go hand in hand. MedTech Odense provides the framework for collaboration and ensures that the right perspectives are brought in at the right time.

Collaboration across the entire ecosystem is central – particularly close engagement with businesses to create clearer and more accessible pathways into the healthcare system, hospitals and the university. The goal is to make it easier for industry partners to participate in development and testing processes, especially in the final and often most challenging stages, so that promising solutions can be transformed quickly into tangible value for patients, healthcare professionals and society.

From early idea to realisation

MedTech Odense places strong emphasis on the early stages of the innovation process, where ideas are shaped, needs are clarified, and early decisions have a significant impact on future development. Here, MedTech Odense plays a key role in providing structure, direction and momentum.

A core principle is to make sure that regulatory and commercial considerations are not treated as an afterthought but are integrated early into project development. At this stage, the goal is not to push projects prematurely to market, but to secure that solutions are developed with a realistic understanding of the requirements and frameworks within the healthcare domain. This approach ensures that developed solutions have the best possible conditions for implementation and scaling.

The holistic approach defines MedTech Odense's work, with a strong focus on the interplay between clinical practice, technology, regulation and business development – throughout the entire lifecycle of an innovation project, from identified need to standard clinical practice.

A YEAR OF STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

In 2025, MedTech Odense evolved from a vision into an active meeting hub. Key stakeholders from the already strong health innovation ecosystem came together to discuss opportunities and expectations for collaboration within and around MedTech Odense. The year was characterised by high activity, strong engagement and broad involvement across institutions and disciplines. The vision of connecting clinical needs with research, technology and business was translated into action through dialogue, collaboration and joint initiatives.

A strong ecosystem strengthened further

High attendance at information meetings in the spring and more than 40 applications for the first funding calls in the autumn demonstrate that researchers and healthcare professionals across the University of Southern Denmark and the Region of Southern Denmark have embraced MedTech Odense as a collaborative partner in developing ideas into concrete solutions.

In 2025, 21 innovation projects received grants totalling 20 million DKK, including one major long-term pioneer project. These projects have contributed to building new collaborations across clinical practice, research, and technical environments, strengthening connections within the region and opening new pathways to national and international partners.

A meeting hub for dialogue and shared direction

Throughout the year, MedTech Odense has engaged in dialogue with universities, hospitals, municipalities, business development organisations, industry, investors and national and international initiatives. The focus has been on identifying shared interests, aligning expectations and uncovering opportunities for collaboration across the value chain. In particular, the dialogue with public authorities, business organisations and international actors has contributed to ensuring that MedTech Odense's work interacts with broader strategic initiatives within healthcare and health technology.

In 2025, new meeting places and forums were established where ecosystem stakeholders met, exchanged knowledge and developed a shared understanding of the role and potential of health technology. MedTech Odense has organised activities such as information meetings, conference sessions and workshops, and has actively participated in regional and national forums focused on health, technology, and innovation.

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VOICES FROM THE ECOSYSTEM

MedTech Odense has been developed in close dialogue with the health technology ecosystem. In 2025, meetings, workshops and joint discussions have provided space for many different perspectives. Below is a selection of some of them.

What was your impression of MedTech Odense after the workshop at the conference?

"I have a very strong impression of MedTech Odense, and I leave with a belief that this is the right way to go. When we had discussions at the tables, there was a positive atmosphere because everyone is highly motivated and brings many good ideas. In relation to my questions about what the challenges are, the participants were very honest. As a politician, it is important to be told how we can help ensure that we not only take part in the development phase with companies working on health innovation, but create opportunities so that they remain in Denmark and their products become available on the Danish market."

Anja Lund, Member of the Regional Council in the Region of Southern Denmark, Vice Chair of the Health Council of Funen

What do municipalities request in the collaboration with the health technology industry?

"I would like to meet companies with solutions that can help us in the municipalities with the challenges we are facing. Solutions that fit into the context we work in. In addition, I would like to see pitches from companies, so we can get a faster introduction to the solutions that already exist."

Welfare Consultant, Municipality of Helsingør

What was your most important learning from the regulation workshop?

"My biggest takeaway from the workshop is that it is not my responsibility alone as a researcher. It is a great idea to bring together competences and guidance through initiatives such as MedTech Odense."

Frederik Duedahl, MD and PhD student, OUH, participant in the workshop on regulatory considerations in the development of health technology, November 2025

Why is regulatory support important in innovation projects?

"There are many requirements that must be met. It is important that staff can get advice and help to bring their idea into play so that it does not stall."

Lone Boysen Lauridsen, Innovation Consultant, Learning and Research House, Hospital Sønderjylland

Which considerations are important early in the innovation process?

"If, already in the early phase, you choose the easiest path to obtaining regulatory approval, it may become a barrier to commercialisation. So we need to ask ourselves: what is it that we should be working on now in order to bring it to market later? We must ensure that entrepreneurs choose the regulatory pathway that gets new ideas out into the field – and not just in the short term."

Consultant, Denmark's Export and Investment Fund (EIFO)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

In 2025, MedTech Odense actively participated in existing ecosystem events and hosted its own activities to promote dialogue, new knowledge and strong local anchoring.

01

HEALTH INNOVATION DAY AT SDU

Presentations at Health Innovation Day at SDU Faculty of Health Sciences.

DIALOGUE MEETINGS AT SDU

Information meetings about MedTech Odense at faculties and departments.

02

NETWORK MEETING FOR SOUTHERN DENMARK LIFE SCIENCE STAKEHOLDERS

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH ZEISS

Discussions with the technology company Zeiss on best practices and initiatives.

03

INFORMATION MEETING AT OUH

Information meeting at OUH for researchers and clinicians about funding and involvement in MedTech Odense.

04

THE SOUTHERN DENMARK INNOVATION DAY

Knowledge sharing and celebration of innovation in the Region of Southern Denmark.

05

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH MEDICOINDUSTRIEN

Discussion of Medicoindustrien's interests and opportunities for collaboration.

ROBOTBRAG & HOSPITAL AUTOMATION SUMMIT

06

THE PEOPLE'S MEETING "FOLKEMØDET" ON BORNHOLM

Dialogue and debates on medtech, health technology and life science.

INVESTOR SUMMIT ODENSE

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

07

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH INVEST IN ODENSE

Discussions on Odense's business and growth policy as well as life science strategy in relation to MedTech Odense.

08

"SKÅL I SKYEN" NETWORK EVENT AT LIFE SCIENCE FYN

Presentation about MedTech Odense for network members.

TECHBBQ SUMMIT FOR STARTUPS

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH FUJI CORP

09

TOGETHER4HEALTH CONFERENCE

International conference in Aalborg in connection with the Danish EU Presidency.

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH DANSK STANDARD

Strategic discussion of developing a standard for use of robots in the healthcare sector.

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WHINN 2025 CONFERENCE IN ODENSE

Hosting a session focusing on "From idea to scalable product" and "The future MedTech Innovation House".

LIFE SCIENCE KICK-OFF MEETING AT ODENSE MUNICIPALITY

Dialogue on the growth agenda and life science strategy.

DIALOGUE MEETING WITH THE EXPORT AND INVESTMENT FUND OF DENMARK (EIFO) AND THE DANISH INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

11

MEDTECH ODENSE: REGULATORY WORKSHOP

Workshop where researchers and clinicians worked with regulatory aspects in innovation projects.

OUH INNOVATION DAY WITH AWARDING OF THE HOSPITAL'S INNOVATION PRIZE

MEDTECH WORLD IN MALTA

12

RAIN: APPLICATION OF AI IN HOSPITALS

Workshop on AI in healthcare within the regional AI network RAIN.

FROM IDEA TO IMPACT

Results and collaborations in 2025

In 2025, MedTech Odense has made a clear mark on the Danish health technology landscape. Not by measuring impact in final solutions or implemented products yet, but by purposefully strengthening the conditions for developing and implementing more and better health technology in Denmark and globally.

In its first year, MedTech Odense has invested a total of 20 million DKK in health technology innovation. These funds have been made available by the group of partners and allocated to the field with the clear purpose of accelerating development, strengthening collaborations and advancing more ideas safely through the innovation pipeline. The investment in 2025 has been made early in the lifecycle of the projects, where the need for funding, structure and interdisciplinary sparring is greatest, and where the impact on the field is strongest. Going forward, investments will also be made in projects that are further along on their innovation journey.

Strengthening the field as a whole

The grants in 2025 have had the nature of catalytic investments. They have enabled researchers and clinicians to mature ideas, build strong interdisciplinary teams and create progress in projects that might otherwise risk running out or being delayed in the transition from idea to realisation.

There are already strong traditions for clinical innovation and research in health technology at both the University of Southern Denmark and the hospitals in the Region of Southern Denmark. By providing funding while also setting clear expectations for the interplay between clinical relevance, technological quality and interdisciplinary collaboration, MedTech Odense has contributed to professionalising and strengthening early-stage innovation work within the professional environments. At the same time, projects are equipped to identify the next sources of funding, enter partnerships with businesses and move towards testing, validation, implementation and scaling.

Although the grants are anchored at the University of Southern Denmark and the Region of Southern Denmark, the value extends far beyond the region. The solutions and competences developed are aimed at a healthcare system in transition and have the potential to benefit patients, healthcare professionals and society throughout Denmark and internationally.

FROM IDEA TO VALUE IN PRACTICE

DANARC – MedTech Odense pioneer project

Each year, approximately 200,000 patients in Denmark undergo an ultrasound examination (echocardiography) of the heart due to suspected or known heart disease. In the future, the number of patients requiring examination will increase. This societal challenge calls for new solutions.

In the DANARC project, clinicians and researchers are developing a robot to automate the examination itself and perform automated analysis of the images using artificial intelligence. This requires technological development, a focus on ethical considerations and health economics, regulation of medical devices, and collaboration with industry to ensure that the solution can be implemented in practice. This will benefit patients, who will experience shorter waiting times and greater flexibility and the healthcare system that can free up time for the many examinations through an automated solution.

> *This is an ambitious task ahead of us, and with the MedTech Odense grant we can truly accelerate our project and develop a prototype. We are fascinated by the potential of modern technology to find smart and flexible solutions to challenges in healthcare. Across a group of skilled experts and industry partners, we will jointly develop a robot that can become an important part of the hospitals of the future and significantly improve patient care.*
>
> Professor Axel Diederichsen, Department of Cardiology, OUH.

The grant from MedTech Odense will be used to develop a prototype of a robot capable of scanning and diagnosing cardiovascular diseases – with the potential to be further developed for use in relation to other organs and clinical specialties. The project funding will, among other things, be used to design and develop the robot's appearance and behaviour through a user-driven process that ensures high levels of trust and acceptance of the technology. In addition, the project focuses on evaluating the robot through various working groups involving cardiologists and experts in robotics, interaction design, health economics, as well as technology and innovation.

FROM IDEA TO VALUE IN PRACTICE

FlowPriority

In an increasingly technological and specialised hospital system, a number of different IT systems are necessary to create a single patient pathway. Unfortunately, these systems do not always communicate with each other, which means that both doctors and administrative staff must repeatedly check multiple systems to see whether, for example, the result of an X-ray examination has been received before the patient's scheduled consultation at the hospital.

To keep patient pathways as short as possible, it is common practice to schedule consultations based on an expectation of when examination results will be available. As a result, patients sometimes arrive at the hospital for an appointment only to be sent home because the doctor has no new information without the test results. Additionally, patients may also wait unnecessarily long for a scheduled consultation, even though results were ready earlier than expected.

To address this, a team of clinical staff and data specialists from the Region of Southern Denmark has developed a system called FlowPriority, which they describe as "a kind of digital care pathway coordinator." The system automatically retrieves data from a range of clinical IT systems and provides notifications when test results or scans are ready. When a notification is received from FlowPriority, patients are immediately scheduled for consultation. During a five-month test period in the liver cancer outpatient clinic at Odense University Hospital, it was observed that administrative staff saved 5-7 hours per week, while doctors saved 2–4 hours per week. Meanwhile, fewer consultations were cancelled for patients.

Based on these results, the team behind FlowPriority will use the new grant from the CONCEPT grant from MedTech Odense to further develop the system in collaboration with researchers from the Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute at SDU. Following further development, the system will be tested in another department at OUH, with a focus on scaling the solution across more departments at OUH and within the Region of Southern Denmark.

> *It may sound strange that patients show up for consultations at the hospital only to be sent home again without answers because we have nothing new to tell them – but unfortunately, this is the reality. Fundamentally changing the system would be a long and exhausting process, so we came up with the idea of creating a kind of digital care pathway coordinator that retrieves data from different systems and sends it to us, instead of us having to remember to check manually at regular intervals.*
>
> Lead Consultant Kenneth Pedersen, Department of Gastroenterology, OUH.

FROM IDEA TO VALUE IN PRACTICE

EndoMedBot

At the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at Odense University Hospital, significant resources are currently spent on diagnostics where the conclusion is that there are no findings requiring treatment. It is an inherent condition of diagnostics that thorough examinations are necessary to rule out disease, but this means that doctors and nurses spend time on examinations that ultimately confirm that no treatment is needed.

Today, assessments in endoscopy and imaging diagnostics can vary. Not because the quality is low, but because experience and routine play a major role. If a new AI-based solution can indicate that findings are normal, or that something deviates from the norm, the clinic can better target further diagnostics and allocate time and competences where the need is greatest.

For this reason, the researchers behind the EndoMedBot project are developing a platform in which an AI-driven robot can improve current diagnostic methods for diseases in the uterine cavity. The ambition is for a robot to guide a very thin camera and support the initial assessment using artificial intelligence. The main issue is that the technology should function as a decision-support tool for clinical experts. It is not intended to replace clinical judgement, but to make the initial assessment more consistent and less dependent on the individual clinician's experience.

The EndoMedBot project is a collaboration between clinical practice at OUH and technological development at SDU Robotics. The grant from the IDEA funding track at MedTech Odense serves as seed funding to establish the idea, plan, and collaboration. Initially, the focus is on creating a realistic budget, identifying development areas, and planning the first steps so that the project can move from idea to a clearer technological and clinical clarification.

> *Today, the assessment of examinations depends largely on the experience of the doctor. With this new approach, we hope to achieve far greater consistency and much more standardised treatment. If the robot can assist and provide diagnoses with very high accuracy, it will be a tremendous help. This would allow us to free up resources that we currently use for other purposes.*
>
> *SDU will be responsible for developing the robot, and we will take part in or be involved in the AI component. I find it very positive that we have established a collaboration with SDU Robotics. It was not a collaboration we had expected beforehand, but it has been very valuable.*
>
> Professor Martin Rudnicki, Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, OUH.

FROM IDEA TO VALUE IN PRACTICE

MedTech Legal Perspectives

When working with research and development of health technology such as artificial intelligence, achieving regulatory compliance is both complex and extensive, as there is legislation governing products and technology, health data, and privacy that must be adhered to. The MedTech Legal Perspectives project aims to support knowledge sharing and the development of new approaches and methods in regulatory work within medtech, so that more solutions can be integrated into daily healthcare operations.

The project seeks to work with the legal frameworks for future health technology, including strengthening opportunities to collaborate with external stakeholders on challenges related to access to health data and data integration considering Danish and EU law. The international dimension opens the possibility of addressing broader themes such as differences in the level of regulation of IT solutions in Denmark, the USA and China.

A central research question is whether AI-driven healthcare services can be protected under intellectual property law, and whether this may become a barrier to equal access to healthcare services. This includes situations where consultation or treatment is carried out by AI rather than a doctor, where our researchers will examine potential discrimination in accordance with EU and international law.

The project is led by researchers from the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences at SDU with backgrounds in law and health economics.

The funding from MedTech Odense will primarily be used to organise an international conference at SDU focusing on medtech and law in the spring of 2027. The funding will also support international research collaboration through participation in relevant academic activities and networks within medtech. These activities will contribute to preparation and academic development leading up to the conference.

> *We see the grant as an opportunity to build legal research capacity that can support the development and application of medtech. Questions of compliance and differences in regulation between Europe, the USA and China play a significant role in the development of medtech solutions, and these regulatory differences have great importance for both research and practice in the field.*
>
> *We aim to contribute as legal researchers by supporting interdisciplinary research environments around medtech while also developing independent legal research projects in this area. We are very grateful to have received funding to initiate this work.*
>
> Professor Frederik Waage, Department of Law, SDU.

FROM IDEA TO VALUE IN PRACTICE

SERSbot

Only a few years ago, science definitively established that microplastics are present in human bloodstreams. However, there is still a lack of knowledge about how much microplastic we carry – and not least where it comes from. This is partly because manual analysis of microscopic foreign particles in blood samples is both time-consuming and costly.

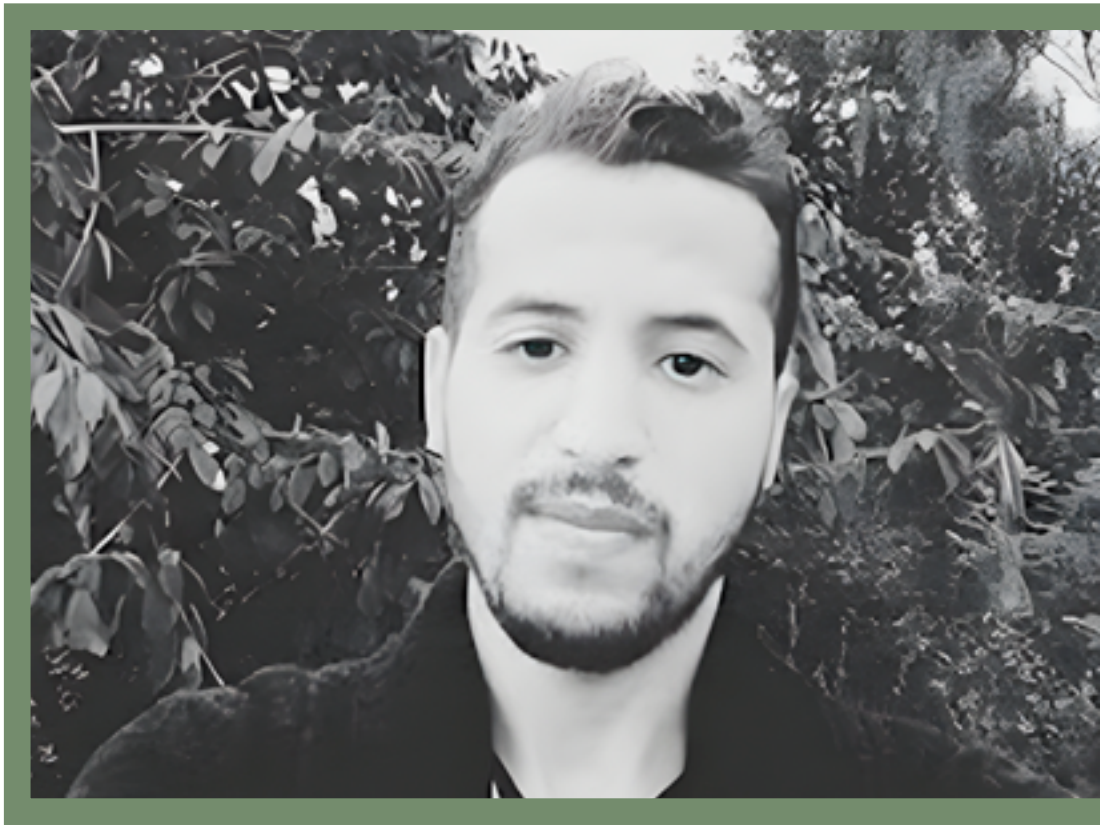
Researchers in the SERSbot project are developing a robotic platform that makes it possible to screen blood samples at a scale that has not previously been achievable.

The funding from MedTech Odense will be used to develop and test a robot that automates the analysis process, enabling thousands of sample points to be analysed systematically without human intervention. The project also provides an opportunity to investigate whether the national Danish blood banks may be part of the problem. Donor blood is currently stored in plastic bags, and researchers aim to determine whether the packaging itself constitutes a source of contamination. Therefore, the Blood Bank at Rigshospitalet, which holds the country's largest collection of blood samples is also part of the project, where packaging will be analysed in relation to degradation and potential impact on donor blood.

> *We recently received an inquiry from a hospital department that wanted to test 2,000 samples in connection with a study. We did the math and found that with the current manual method it would take two and a half years to complete.*
>
> Ayoub Laghrissi, Assistant Professor, the Mads Clausen Institute, SDU.

The technology behind the blood sample analysis is called SERS (Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering). By illuminating a blood sample with laser light, researchers can read a unique chemical fingerprint that reveals the composition of the material. The challenge is no longer detecting the plastic – but handling the volume of samples.

By automating blood sample analysis and creating a solid data foundation, the researchers aim to provide the chemical evidence needed to distinguish between noise in the debate on microplastics in blood and actual health risks.



GRANTS 2025

In 2025, MedTech Odense awarded funding to 21 projects. In the spring, the pioneer project DANARC received a large grant to establish an ambitious initiative, where AI-driven robotics will be used to detect cardiovascular disease (see presentation of DANARC on page 11).

The remaining funds were awarded through two funding calls:

IDEA:
Early-stage ideas and concepts, where needs clarification, technological maturation and the development of interdisciplinary collaborations were central.

CONCEPT:
More mature ideas with a solid foundation that are now ready to be further developed towards testing, demonstration, and application in real-world environments.

On these pages you can see an overview of the projects that received support through the IDEA and CONCEPT funding tracks in 2025.

IDEA Grants

3D-WoundEIT
Non-Invasive 3D Wound Size Estimation Using Bioimpedance Imaging
Grant holder: Daniel Teichmann
Partners: SDU Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute, OUH Steno Diabetes Centre
Grant: 139.000 DKK

AICA
Artificial Intelligence in Detection, Description and Rupture Risk Estimation of Intracranial Aneurysms
Grant holder: Emma Tubæk Nielsen
Partners: OUH Department of Neurosurgery, SDU Department of Clinical Research
Grant: 131.600 DKK

AutoLUTS
Automated assessment of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS)
Grant holder: Grzegorz Lukasz Fojecki
Partners: OUH Department of Urology, SDU Robotics
Grant: 150.000 DKK

CAL-D
Conversational AI for people Living with Dementia
Grant holder: Gitte Rasmussen
Partners: SDU Department of Culture and Language, OUH Department of Geriatric Medicine, SDU Robotics
Grant: 150.000 DKK

AQUA
Automated Quality Assurance for radiographic fracture detection algorithms
Grant holder: Janni Jensen
Partners: OUH Department of Radiology, SDU Department of Clinical Research
Grant: 150.000 DKK

EndometrioseRobot EndoMedBot
Grant holder: Martin Rudnicki
Partners: OUH Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, SDU Robotics
Grant: 150.000 DKK

MedTech Legal Perspectives
Grant holder: Frederik Waage
Partners: SDU Department of Law, OUH
Grant: 148.000 DKK

Pump-free negative pressure wound therapy for postoperative wounds
Grant holder: David Hebbelstrup Jensen
Partners: OUH Department of Plastic Surgery, SDU Department of Clinical Research
Grant: 142.000 DKK

SERSbot
Automated Platform for High-Throughput Blood Microplastic Screening
Grant holder: Ayoub Laghrissi
Partners: SDU Mads Clausen Institute, SDU Robotics, OPEN
Grant: 150.000 DKK

KOMPAS
Compressed Patient and Disease Summary
Grant holder: Clara Mistegård
Partners: OUH Department of Rheumatology, SDU Department of Clinical Research, OUH Department of Clinical Biochemistry
Grant: 150.000 DKK

CONCEPT Grants

AI powered robotics for intestinal ultrasound in inflammatory bowel disease
Grant holder: Britta Köppe-Bindslev
Partners: OUH Department of Gastroenterology, SDU Robotics
Grant: 400.000 DKK

RAPTOR
Further development of annotation platform
Grant holder: Frederik Duedahl
Partners: OUH Department of Thoracic Surgery, CAI-X, OUH Department of Respiratory Medicine
Grant: 400.000 DKK

Artificial Intelligence for detection and stratification of interstitial lung abnormalities on CT
Grant holder: Jesper Rømhild Davidsen
Partners: OUH Department of Respiratory Medicine, SDU Department of Clinical Research
Grant: 400.000 DKK

SOLAR
Slide Sorting and Labelling Robot
Grant holder: Aljaz Kramberger
Partners: SDU Robotics, OUH Department of Pathology
Grant: 385.000 DKK

FAR-Broncho
Force-Aware Robotic Bronchoscopy
Grant holder: Di Wu
Partners: SDU Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute, OUH
Grant: 400.000 DKK

AI decision support for lung cancer diagnostics
Grant holder: Christian Borbjerg Laursen
Partners: OUH Department of Respiratory Medicine, SDU Department of Clinical Research, SDU Robotics
Grant: 375.000 DKK

NER2ICD
Automated diagnosis coding
Grant holder: Pernille Just Vinholt
Partners: SDU Department of Clinical Research, OUH Department of Clinical Biochemistry
Grant: 398.144 DKK

FlowPriority
Digital care pathway coordinator
Grant holder: Kenneth Pedersen
Partners: OUH Department of Gastroenterology, SDU, CAI-X
Grant: 400.000 DKK

UriNix
Raman spectroscopy and machine learning for rapid diagnostics
Grant holder: Thomas Emil Andersen
Partners: SDU Department of Clinical Research, OUH Clinical Microbiology, Lightnovo
Grant: 400.000 DKK

Test for early diagnosis of urinary tract infection
Grant holders:
Karen Andersen-Ranberg/Line Vigga Kristensen
Partners: OUH Department of Geriatrics, SDU Department of Clinical Research, UVIGGA Diagnostics
Grant: 400.000 DKK

ORGANISATION OF MEDTECH ODENSE

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Bjarne Dahler-Eriksen
Chief Medical Officer, OUH

Mathilde Schmidt-Petersen
Chief Nursing Officer, OUH

Ole Skøtt
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, SDU

Henrik Bindslev
Dean, Faculty of Engineering, SDU

Kurt Espersen
Chief Medical Officer, Region of Southern Denmark (Delegated)

Anders Drejer Lønbæk
Chief of Staff for Technology, Data & Business IT, Odense Municipality (Observer)

MANAGEMENT

Søren E. Frandsen
Head of MedTech Odense and SDU RIO, Director of Research and Innovation, SDU

Thomas K. Kristensen
Vice Head of MedTech Odense, Head of Innovation, OUH

COORDINATION

Peter Børker Nielsen
MedTech Odense Coordinator, Programme Manager, CAI-X, OUH

Christina Vilms Kay
Head of Communication and Executive Support, SDU RIO

Anders Christian Frederiksen
Chief Consultant, SDU RIO

PARTNERS

SDU
University of Southern Denmark

Region of Southern Denmark

OUH
Odense University Hospital
Svendborg Hospital

CITY OF ODENSE

ORGANISATION AND OPERATIONS

Behind MedTech Odense is a dedicated team and a committed partnership, which constitutes the driving force of the initiative. The organisation is designed to support collaboration across research, clinical practice and industry partners, ensuring that ideas are not only developed but also advanced towards implementation and scaling.

MedTech Odense is not an independent organisation, but a shared collaborative framework that builds on strong existing environments and competences at the University of Southern Denmark, the Region of Southern Denmark, Odense University Hospital and the other regional hospitals, as well as the Municipality of Odense. This provides access to deep expertise, strong leadership anchoring and a wide range of competences within innovation, fundraising, regulation, commercialisation, company formation and clinical and healthcare practice.

Steering committee and management

The overall strategic direction is set by a steering committee with representatives from across the partnership. The steering committee contributes with strategic guidance, leadership anchoring, financial responsibility and perspectives from clinical practice, research, and regional leadership.

The daily management of MedTech Odense is carried out by a joint management team with strong anchoring at both university and hospital level.

The management team consists of:

- **Søren E. Frandsen, Head of MedTech Odense and SDU RIO, Director of Research and Innovation, SDU**
- **Thomas K. Kristensen, Vice Head of MedTech Odense, Head of Innovation, OUH**

The management team is responsible for strategy, implementation of calls, partnerships, and the overall development of MedTech Odense. The collaboration is close and operational, with continuous dialogue and joint decision-making ensuring progress and coherence across organisations.

Coordination across organisations

The daily coordination of MedTech Odense's activities is carried out through close collaboration between coordinators, the portfolio manager and the secretariat. The organisation is designed to ensure both strategic and practical progress and quality in the work, and to connect the many stakeholders involved.

The coordination is managed by:

- **Peter Børker Nielsen, MedTech Odense Coordinator, Programme Manager, CAI-X, OUH**
- **Christina Vilms Kay, Head of Communication & Executive Support, SDU RIO**
- **Anders Christian Frederiksen, Chief Consultant, SDU RIO**

The coordinators act as a link in the daily work, ensuring that decisions are translated into actions and maintain momentum. Their organisational anchoring guarantees alignment between clinical needs, technological opportunities and the MedTech Odense funding calls.

The portfolio management is anchored in the commercialisation team at SDU RIO, securing synergy across all projects in collaboration with the project owners to drive progress towards the next stages of development. The portfolio manager holds overall responsibility for the project portfolio and activities within MedTech Odense's grant programme.

The secretariat ensures structure, overview and stable progress. It supports the steering committee, management team and ongoing partnership work, securing follow-up on decisions and coherence in processes. Communication and events are coordinated centrally across partner organisations to ensure a strategic and consistent positioning of MedTech Odense – both internally and externally.

SUPPORTING THE INNOVATION JOURNEY

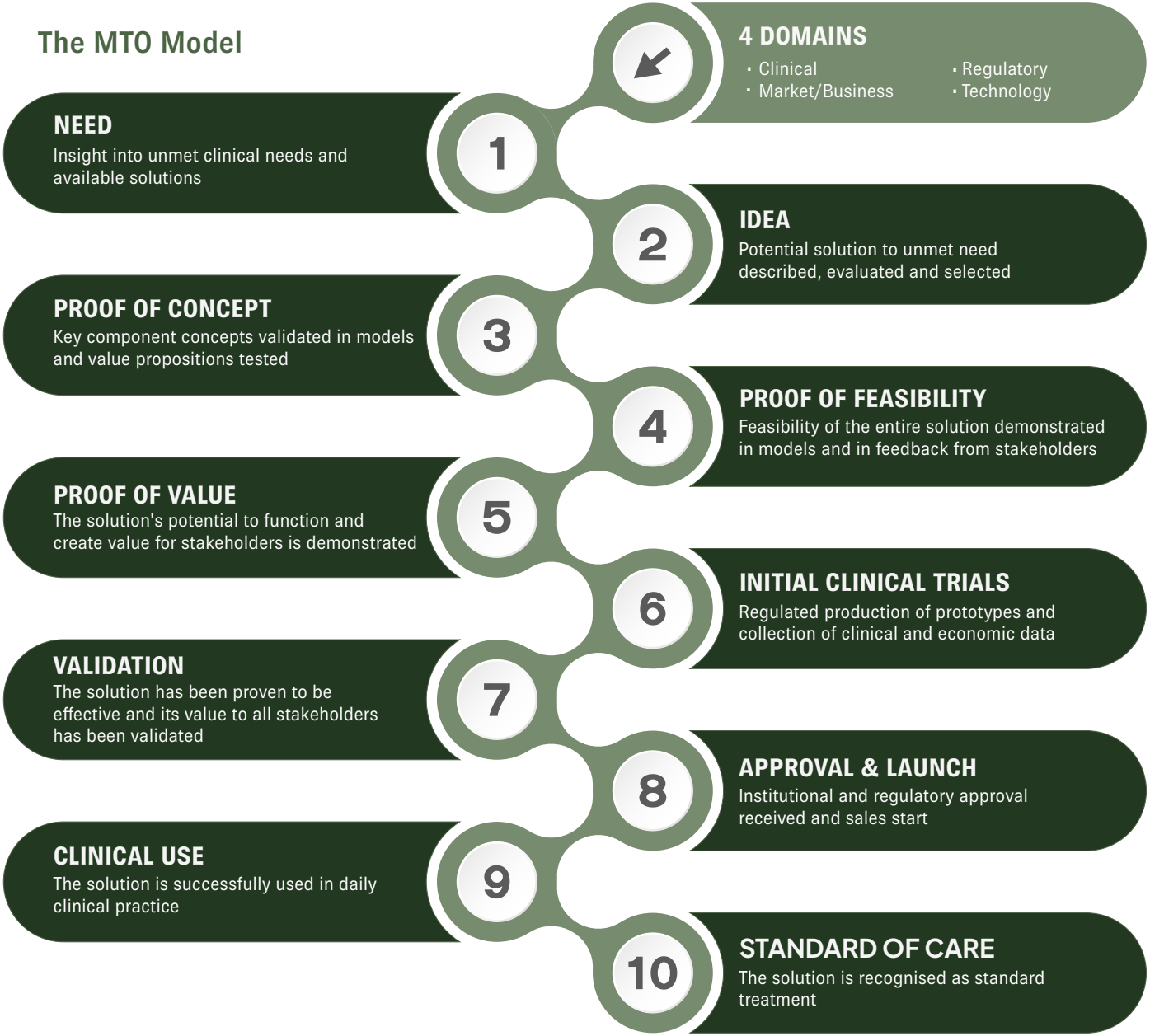
The ambitions of MedTech Odense are clear: to promote the development of new health technologies and pave the way for well-tested solutions to be adopted more quickly and easily across the healthcare system, making a difference for patient care in Denmark and globally.

As support for MedTech Odense's holistic approach, inspiration has been drawn from the GAITS model, which focuses on projects' Innovation Maturity Levels (IML) across four domains: clinical, commercialisation, regulation and technology.

To create a shared framework, MedTech Odense has interpreted and developed its own model: the MTO model. This shared tool helps projects and partners navigate the innovation process and identify the next meaningful steps from idea to a fully developed and implemented solution. MedTech Odense holds a unique position, as the professional environments within the partnership possess expertise across all domains. This provides a strong toolbox of resources and competences to support researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

The MTO Model

Inspired by the GAITS model, MedTech Odense works with projects across four domains, each progressing through a process corresponding to ten phases:



In 2025, a large share of MedTech Odense's work was done in thematic working groups with colleagues from various partner organisations and professional disciplines. Here, experienced consultants and subject-matter experts contributed both professional depth, organisational breadth, and administrative competences. The working groups have been central to translating strategic ambitions into concrete deliverables, and to ensuring that the efforts are robust and create real value.

From idea to clinic to market

A distinguishing feature of MedTech Odense is its strong focus on regulation and commercialisation from the early phases of innovation processes. These competences are professionally anchored in SDU RIO, which plays a central role in MedTech Odense.

A particular focus is placed on professional sparring and knowledge gathering from projects, commercialisation, company collaborations and partnerships, regulatory conditions and certification, and the development of accelerator initiatives and project calls. This link between research, innovation, regulation, and business development is crucial in enabling projects to move from idea to application, commercialisation and scaling.

Close anchoring in everyday clinical practice

The projects in MedTech Odense are closely tied to everyday clinical practice at the hospitals in the Region of Southern Denmark. Support and anchoring are centred in Odense University Hospital's innovation unit and the three research and innovation centres CCR, CIMT and CAI-X, in close collaboration with the region's other innovation environments. This interdisciplinary and multi-institutional approach helps support projects from development, testing and implementation of new health technologies.

CLINICAL COMPETENCES

- Direct clinical access and established innovation structures reduce the time from pilot to implementation in clinical operations
- Knowledge of hospital operations, clinical workflows, IT integration and regional/national governance
- Experience in conducting clinical trials, validation and implementation

COMMERCIAL COMPETENCES

- Commercialisation team accelerating the path from pilot to scalable product
- Established experienced mentor corps
- Investor network and capital bridge through a network of 50+ national/international VCs, business angels/angel networks and family offices

REGULATORY COMPETENCES

- Established regulatory structure for legal services broadly
- Experience navigating CE marking, MDR, Machinery Directive, GDPR and AI Act
- Collaboration agreements, clinical trial agreements, company-initiated processes, material transfer, confidentiality, IP support

TECHNICAL COMPETENCES

- Direct access to the latest technical knowledge, research-based technologies and testing facilities
- Established research and innovation centres within medtech
- Integration into hospitals' IT systems, workflows and decision-making processes

A CLOSER COLLABORATION

2025 was the year in which MedTech Odense truly took shape. A shared direction was established, the organisational and leadership foundation was strengthened, and collaboration across partners moved closer together.

Through ten strategic tracks and several working groups, specialists from partner organisations have aligned efforts that combine research and technology with clinical needs and industry to advance the development of future health technology solutions. Knowledge has been translated into action: new ideas tested, new formats explored and new collaborations established. This effort has created a strong framework for MedTech Odense – with focus areas including clinical needs, funding allocation, research, technology, regulation, implementation and commercialisation. In its first year, MedTech Odense has evolved from a vision into an integrated way of working across partner organisations.

2026 therefore marks the transition to the next phase. With a strengthened partnership and a solid professional foundation, MedTech Odense is ready to raise its level of ambition and take the next steps in developing a stronger medtech ecosystem.

> *A lighthouse has been established – but a lighthouse only creates value when others navigate by it. That is exactly the movement MedTech Odense will begin in 2026.*
>
> Søren E. Frandsen and Thomas K. Kristensen

A joint recap of the efforts in the working groups in 2025 – and what will happen moving forward.

2026 will be characterised by collaboration. Future healthcare solutions are strongest when developed close to practice and jointly across disciplines, organisations and sectors. We will therefore engage many more disciplines, clinical areas and industry partners in the work. Only through broad engagement can we bring even more ideas from research and clinical practice to patients – and from identified needs to commercial products.

Søren E. Frandsen and Thomas K. Kristensen

2026 OUTLOOK: FROM VISION TO JOINT ACTION

The vision is clear: to strengthen MedTech Odense as an even more powerful catalyst for health technology solutions nationally and internationally. The coming year will focus on scaling activities, strengthening both internal and external collaboration and involving more disciplines – for the benefit of patients, healthcare systems and society.

Specific focus areas:

- Strengthened external collaboration and select strategic partnerships
- New collaborations and broader involvement across university and healthcare
- Clear value creation through development of the project portfolio

Key initiatives vital for success:

- Targeted funding calls and clear prioritisation of efforts
- Supporting programmes and access to the right competences and activities
- Leveraging funding to mature technologies, products and businesses
- Stronger anchoring in the ecosystem and international learning

Future healthcare solutions are created through collaboration across stakeholders – between research environments, healthcare professionals and industry, each contributing their perspectives on opportunities, challenges and solutions.

This is the core of MedTech Odense: bringing clinical practice and research together to ensure that projects are created and developed across disciplines – enabling success throughout the innovation journey from idea to clinic and market. With programmes and activities that endure and set goals for the future.

JOIN US

MedTech Odense is an open partnership with national ambitions.

Whether you are a researcher, clinician, industry, municipality or a student, there are opportunities to engage and contribute to developing future health technology solutions.

Read more at **www.medtechodense.dk** or follow us on LinkedIn.
Contact us via the website for dialogue and collaboration.

Behind MedTech Odense:

medtech odense | SDU University of Southern Denmark | Region of Southern Denmark | OUH Odense University Hospital Svendborg Hospital | CITY OF ODENSE