



## Oregon incubator, Clinic form joint venture

By **CHUCK SODER**

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The Cleveland Clinic and a business incubator in Oregon have formed a company called Clear Catheter Solutions LLC, which aims to develop medical devices to improve post-surgical wound drainage.

The company will use intellectual property from the Clinic and the incubator, Medical Device Innovations LLC, to continue developing a portfolio of products to keep surgical drains clear and functioning optimally.

Clear Catheter's products, once developed, would be spun out into new companies, said Christopher Coburn, executive director of CCF Innovations, the Clinic's technology commercialization arm.

"We would expect that we would have specific product-focused companies coming out of this," he said.

The new company might have a physical presence in Cleveland, but even if it doesn't, it is probable that its spinoffs would, Mr. Coburn said. Clear Catheter will not have its own employees.

Clear Catheter could begin spinning off companies soon, Mr. Coburn said, though he noted that more money must be raised first.

Medical Device Innovations, which approached the Clinic about the collaboration, will handle most of the company's daily operations, while the Clinic will focus on providing intellectual property and product validation services, Mr. Coburn said.

He declined to say how much of the company the Clinic owns.

Surgical procedures sometimes can disrupt the local flow of blood and lymphatic fluids, which can cause fluid buildup that can disrupt healing and slow a patient's recovery. Surgeons often improve drainage by establishing temporary, passive drains in or near a surgical site to allow fluid to escape, but the drains often clog, which negates their value and opens a path for infection.

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