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New helium free, benchtop, MRI system causes a stir at US meetings

MR Solutions booths at the AACR (American Association for Cancer Research) annual meeting in Washington DC on April 6th- 10th and the ISMRM (International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine) annual meeting in Salt Lake City on April 20th -26th caused a real stir as they showed off their ultra compact new helium free, preclinical, benchtop MRI system.

Dr. David Taylor CEO of MR Solutions said, "We were overwhelmed by the interest in this new scanner one of a range to follow soon. We were repeatedly told it was a game changer; producing high quality images without compromise and able to fit within an existing laboratory at a price which is more than competitive."

MR Solutions, which is based in Guildford in the UK, developed the world's first commercial, 3T, scanner late last year and in the New Year announced the introduction of two larger bore machines to complete the range.

The smaller two of the new scanners, the 16cm bore is available now (3T) while the other two machines the 31cm, 3T, and 72cm 1.5T will be available by the end of the year - orders for these machines are already in the pipeline.

The new range of three scanners will be able to scan from small to medium sized animals.

The advantages of this technological breakthrough are;

- Firstly and most importantly the scanners offer superior soft tissue contrast and molecular imaging capabilities.
- Secondly they are very competitively priced as there is no need for all the cryogen cooling equipment.
- Thirdly because they have a very small stray magnetic field they can be placed close to other imaging equipment to enable multimodality imaging on the same subject.
- Fourthly because of the lack of liquid helium cooling and required safety equipment the scanners are easy to install and need no expensive building alterations.

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