

KC BioMedix partners with GE Healthcare on premature baby technology

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KC BioMedix Inc. has landed a big partner: **GE Healthcare Inc.** will help it distribute technology that helps premature babies learn to feed themselves.

GE Healthcare announced Wednesday that its Maternal Infant Care division had signed an exclusive rights agreement to distribute and market Shawnee-based KC BioMedix's NTrainer pulsatile neurostimulation system. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"KC BioMedix's agreement with GE Healthcare is a step toward our goal of taking leadership in the emerging market for technologies that address incompetent feeding issues in premature infants," KC BioMedix co-founder and President **Mike Litscher** said in a release.

The NTrainer uses a pulsating pacifier to help children who are born unable to breast feed or bottle feed learn to suckle. GE said in the release that roughly half of the 500,000 U.S. infants born prematurely each year suffer from "incompetent feeding," which can delay their hospital releases and physical development.

Carrie Eglington Manner, general manager of the Maternal Infant Care division of GE Healthcare, said in the release that the NTrainer would complement the company's existing product line for premature infants in neonatal intensive care units.

The deal is a boost for KC BioMedix, a startup that has received regular support from the **Kansas Bioscience Authority**, as well as from investment firms **Open Prairie Ventures**, Quest Capital Alliance, Ed Ventures LLC, **Milestone Ventures LLC** and Darbyshire Technology Investment Holdings LLC.