



## **BIOTECH CAPITAL TO INVEST \$2 MILLION IN HEARING TECHNOLOGY COMPANY SENSEAR**

**19 June 2007.** Biotech Capital Limited (ASX: BTC) is pleased to announce it has agreed to invest \$2 million in private Australian company Sensear Pty Ltd ("Sensear") as part of an overall \$3 million funding round completed by the company.

Sensear has a range of technologies related to hearing enhancement. It's first commercial product is due to be released to the occupational health and safety market in late 2007.

The underlying technology was originally developed at the Western Australian Telecommunications Research Institute (WATRI). The core technology allows for speech recognition and enhancement in a diverse range of noisy environments.

The first commercial application is in hearing muffs and plugs that can be worn by users in noisy environments allowing them to hear speech without removing the hearing protection. In addition, the technology also allows for users to speak on their mobile phones without removing hearing protection.

Hearing protection in the workplace is an important issue facing employers and Sensear aims to fulfill an unmet need in the market. The company has been in extensive consultation with its prospective customer market and commercial interest appears to be strong.

Sensear recently enjoyed success at the annual iAwards presented by the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the Australian Financial Review and the CSIRO which seeks to recognize the best Australian ICT innovations each year. Sensear was the only company to take out two innovation awards taking first place in the "Healthcare" and "Research & Development" categories.

In addition to positioning the company for the commercial launch of its products the funds raised will also be used to explore other applications of the technology including assisted listening device applications. Initial indications from groups operating in this market suggests this could become an important medical market for Sensear.

Following this investment BTC will be the largest shareholder in Sensear and will have Board representation.

The investment is consistent with previous shareholder communication in moving to re-position BTC's investment portfolio towards later stage companies either generating revenues or in human clinical trials.

Further information can be found at [www.sensear.com.au](http://www.sensear.com.au) and [www.biotechcapital.com.au](http://www.biotechcapital.com.au).

Full press release from Sensear is attached.



**About BioTech Capital Ltd**

BioTech Capital Ltd ("BTC") is one of Australia's largest life-science focused private equity funds. With approximately \$10 million in investment funds still available, the company is well placed to continue to develop a diversified portfolio of high quality Australian life-science investments.

BTC currently has investments in a diverse group of Australian life-science companies including Alchemia, Biocomm, Continece Control Systems, Neurodiscovery, Pacific Knowledge Systems, Phylogica, Sensear, Starpharma, Stem Cell Sciences and XRT. As a registered Pooled Development Fund (PDF), investors are generally exempt from tax on capital gains and income.

BTC is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (Code: BTC) and is managed externally by Titan BioVentures Management ([www.titanbioventures.com](http://www.titanbioventures.com)).

Additional information can be found at [www.biotechcapital.com.au](http://www.biotechcapital.com.au)



## Media Release

19 June 2007

### AWARD WINNING HEARING TECHNOLOGY COMPANY TO LAUNCH GLOBALLY

Hot on the heels of winning two innovation awards at the [iAwards 2007](#), hearing technology company [Sensear](#) will launch its ground breaking, innovative products globally at two of the world's largest safety trade expos, the [A&A](#), held in Dusseldorf, Germany in September and the [National Safety Congress](#), held in Chicago in October.

Sensear will be introducing its first two commercial products, the electronic ear muffs and electronic ear plugs, which can be used industrially to enable communication whilst preventing noise induced hearing loss.

Sensear Managing Director Justin Miller said Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) is one of the world's most common occupational illnesses and the world's biggest compensatable occupational hazard.

"A February 2006 study by Access Economics reports Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) cost Australia in excess of \$4 billion in 2005."

Sensear's products can be worn by people in noisy environments, allowing them to hear speech and alarm signals while being protected from background noise.

"The technology is a world first. It enables people to wear hearing protection and clearly hear face to face speech, as well as mobile phone and two-way radio conversations, in a diverse range of high noise environments," Mr Miller said.

The company has consulted extensively with its prospective customer market and commercial interest appears to be strong.

"We have trialled the products with several global companies, including Qantas, Alcoa and Rio Tinto, receiving very positive results," Mr Miller said.

Qantas Occupational Hygienist Brian Smith said Sensear's ear muff products were trialled with ground staff, baggage handlers and engineers with successful results.

"Initial trials of Sensear's ear muff products have proved successful and workplace assessment is ongoing. Once Sensear has launched commercially, we will evaluate other applications including the ear plug option. Sensear's technologies may form part of our overall noise management program," Mr Smith said.

Sensear recently won two innovation awards at the annual iAwards presented by the



Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the Australian Financial Review and the CSIRO, which seeks to recognize the best Australian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) innovations each year.

Sensear was the only company to win two of the prestigious iAwards, taking first place in the *Healthcare* and *Research & Development* categories.

"Australian listed company BioTech Capital has recently completed its due diligence on the company and we now welcome them as a significant investor. Winning the iAwards has generated further interest from other investment organisations," Mr Miller said.

"We see these awards, the substantial interest from potential investors and the overwhelming response from the trials, as recognition that Sensear's products will meet a global market need."

As a result of winning the iAwards, Sensear will now represent Australia at the Asia Pacific ITC Awards in Singapore in November.

**For more information, including images, visit: [www.sensear.com](http://www.sensear.com) or contact:**

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### **About Noise Induced Hearing Loss**

Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) has been identified as a major avoidable cause of permanent hearing impairment worldwide. It is one of the world's most common occupational illnesses and the world's biggest compensatable occupational hazard. NIHL is preventable.

### **About Sensear**

Sensear Pty Ltd is an Australian company formed in 2006 which provides innovative technology that enables speech communication to be heard in high noise environments, without the need to remove hearing protections. The company was formed to commercialise the technology developed by WATRI (Western Australian Telecommunications Research Institute), a joint venture between two of Australia's most renowned and respected universities, Curtin University of Technology and the University of Western Australia.

Sensear's technology is the latest and most effective technological advance in the fight to eliminate Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). The Sensear technology has numerous applications in industrial, commercial and social environments.

[www.sensear.com](http://www.sensear.com)