

## Medigard's patent wait is over

by Shannon Willoughby  
business reporter

GOLD Coast listed group Medigard is one step closer to commercialisation after receiving an Australian patent for its blood-collection device.

The granting of the patent was announced this week, three years after the group applied for it.

It is the first of several worldwide patent applications the group has made for its blood device.

Medigard chief executive Peter Emery said it was a huge step forward for the company.

"It means two things to us. We now have an enforceable patent," he said.

"Lots of people make patented applications and not all of them succeed. In fact many don't, so this is proper recognition and validation of the product and its uniqueness.

"Secondly, the granting of the patent is another significant step in the path to commercialisation. In other words, we have completed our prototypes and they do work."

He hoped the patent would help the company

find a partner to market and sell the product.

"All of this goes to the viability of the product and the viability in the market and for our strategy, which is to liaise with a strategic partner who will distribute this product," said Mr Emery.

"Here is the product and it works.

"We're working very hard towards finding a partner and we're in discussion with several of the global partners.

"Those discussions are well advanced."

The patent follows the group's submission to the US Food and Drugs Administration.

After a successful trial of the device, the group made its submission and will know the outcome in November.

Extensive trials by 10 experienced phlebotomists – medical professionals trained to draw blood – found the tubes to be more successful than American competitors.

The trial was carried out by the Genomics Research Centre at Griffith University.

Medigard shares last night closed up almost 8 per cent at 7.4c.



Medigard chief Peter Emery with the newly patented blood-collection device