

where the tests are specific to each cancer type and even then are not totally reliable.

"We think ours has a much more universal application - hopefully to all solid tumours," chief executive Andrew Newland said recently.

Followers of LidCo (LON:LID) will probably already have half an eye on Deltex Medical (LON:DEMG), which is aiming to get its revolutionary CardioQ-ODM blood monitoring system accepted by health services and hospitals around the world.

Recent updates from the company reveal it is making good headway in achieving this aim in the UK.

CardioQ-ODM (Oesophageal Doppler Monitor) is a blood monitoring system that requires a new disposable probe every time the system is used on a new patient, meaning that Deltex gets a consumables-driven revenue stream as well as income from sales of the device itself.

After selecting CardioQ as one of the first products for review by its newly-established Medical Technologies Advisory Committee, the device received the backing of the UK's health spending watchdog NICE.

NICE estimates that its recommendation applies to 837,000 surgical patients each year in the NHS in England alone.

It is estimated the device could save the NHS £1 billion a year. Yet the potential of CardioQ is only just being recognised by healthcare providers and the market.

Turning from healthcare to biotechnology, and specifically Silence Therapeutics (LON:SLN), our recent article describes the group as leaner and fitter than it ever has been.

And more to the point it is fully funded to develop a potentially breakthrough treatment for cancer.

The latest update on its phase I clinical trials, released earlier this month, made encouraging reading.

This is a stock that will appeal to fans of Sareum Holdings (LON:SAR) and ValiRx (LON:VAL), who understand early-stage biotech investment.

Finally, if alternative investment is your bag then you are no doubt following two quoted companies at the cutting edge of this specialist area.

One would be Noble Investments (LON:NBL), which specialises in coins, and the other is undoubtedly Stanley Gibbons, whose shop on the Strand is a Mecca for stamp collectors.

The recent opening of an office in Hong Kong reveals Stanley Gibbons going international.

China is a real hotspot for philately and a potentially huge market for a

company whose name resonates worldwide.

Bringing us up to speed on the group's expansion plans and the success of its investment products will be chief executive Michael Hall.

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