K2 Wins Prestigious Innovation Award

November 2011.

It is with great pleasure that K2 can announce that they are the proud winners of the 2011 Innovation in Healthcare Award from the Institution of Engineering and Technology. The Award is in recognition of K2’s ground-breaking work with INFANT® - A decision support system for interpretation of fetal heart rate monitoring during childbirth.

The Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) is Europe's largest professional engineering society working to share and advance science, engineering and technology across the world and the Innovation Awards are an annual ceremony where a wide range of disciplines are properly recognised. It is, therefore, a great honour that K2 have been singled out from hundreds of entries to be the successful winner of the Health Technologies category for their intelligent software system INFANT®.

INFANT®, Intelligent Fetal Assessment, is a unique and pioneering software program that is capable of analysing the fetal heart rate during labour (called the CTG), in real time, and alerting clinicians early to changes in pattern and signs of potential problems. Its analysis and interpretation of the FHR and contraction patterns is designed to improve outcomes by supporting human interpretation of the CTG, and to draw attention to anything that causes concern. This revolutionary innovation is currently taking part in the largest maternity study undertaken by the NHS in the UK, in order to objectively evaluate this new technology before its widespread introduction. Run independently by Professor Peter Brocklehurst and the National Epidemiology Unit, Oxford University, INFANT® has already taken part in over 10,000 births across the UK and Ireland. Following over 20 years of development, INFANT’s aim to reduce the costs, both emotional and financial, of the misinterpretation of the CTG traces is becoming a reality, and the recognition received from IET is a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment by K2 to improve maternity care for all.

Dr Robert Keith, K2’s founder and Director, commented upon receiving the award, "We applied for the IET Innovation Awards as they are seen as industry leading and we are very honoured that 20 years of research has been recognised in this way. We have waited for the right moment to compete at this level and we are delighted with the result."

The award was presented to K2 at a glittering ceremony at London’s prestigious Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane. Hosted by actor, writer and presenter, Robert Llewellyn, Dr Robert Keith and colleagues James Meeson and Chris Mabey were delighted to be honoured with this prestigious award marking K2’s INFANT® software as a ground-breaking advancement in the field of maternity care.