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RNS REACH

Gooch & Housego PLC
("Gooch & Housego" or the "Company")

ITL signs manufacturing agreement with OrganOx

Gooch & Housego PLC (AIM: GHH), the specialist manufacturer of optical components and systems, announces that its life science business ITL has been awarded a five-year contract from OrganOx Limited for the manufacture of *metra,* an innovative medical device that allows livers for transplant to be stored and transported at body temperature.

The *metra* system operates by supplying a donated liver with oxygenated blood, anti-clotting drugs and assorted nutrients whilst keeping the organ at a stable temperature (37°C). It has the potential to significantly reduce the number of livers that are discarded due to damage incurred by cold storage or a lack of oxygen.

OrganOx, which was founded in 2008 as a spin-out company from Oxford university, has already gained marketing approval for *metra* in Europe and is in late stage clinical trials in the US.

Tom Cole, managing director of ITL, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with OrganOx on this ground-breaking project. This agreement is yet another important milestone positioning *metra* as one of the most promising transplantation candidates in late-stage development. This collaboration marks the beginning of what I'm sure will be a very exciting journey for both ITL and OrganOx."

Craig Marshall, CEO of OrganOx, said: "This agreement is strategically important to OrganOx as we prepare to penetrate the US market, I have a manufacturing background and I know the importance of working with the best partners in the supply chain. ITL is a great fit with OrganOx given their track record of successfully bringing medical devices to the market coupled with UK HQ with a presence in the US and in China."

University Hospitals Birmingham is one of the European liver transplant units to have conducted clinical research into *metra,* which was featured last year in the BBC TV series Surgeons: At the Edge of Life.

Darius Mirza, professor of transplant surgery at University Hospitals Birmingham, said: "In the 30 years I've been involved with transplantation, there have been three or four events which have been game changers and I'm absolutely certain we are looking at a game changer that will change the way we practise organ storage and transplantation."

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Notes to editors

1. Gooch & Housego is a photonics technology business headquartered in Ilminster, Somerset, UK with operations in the USA and Europe. A world leader in its field, the company researches, designs, engineers and manufactures advanced photonic systems, components and instrumentation for applications in the Aerospace & Defence, Industrial, Life Sciences and Scientific Research sectors. World leading design, development and manufacturing expertise is offered across a broad range of complementary technologies.