

# Gates Foundation-funded Kite Mosquito Patch to be rolled out in Uganda

*Kite is a small, wearable patch using patent-pending compounds, capable of blocking mosquitoes' ability to track humans*

LONDON, July 16, 2013 /EINPresswire.com/ -- ieCrowd, a company which helps transform innovations into solutions to global challenges, today announced details of the Kite Mosquito Patch, a significant advancement in the global fight against mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever: [www.kitepatch.com](http://www.kitepatch.com)

The Kite Mosquito Patch is the world's first product containing breakthrough compounds scientifically proven to disrupt the mosquito's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) neurons. It acts as a non-topical, spatial repellent, blocking mosquitoes' ability to detect CO<sub>2</sub> - their primary method of tracking human blood meals.

Kite's technology has been developed by Olfactor Laboratories, Inc. (OLI), an ieCrowd company, and is the culmination of over four years of research and three years of development work on a class of non-toxic compounds, all of which are approved for human consumption by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Malaria remains a devastating public health threat worldwide. Around 3.3 billion\* people live in areas where malaria is a real and constant threat. In 2010, there were an estimated 216 million\* cases of malaria, of which 655,000 resulted in death, 86 percent of which were children under five years of age. The vast majority of malaria cases, over 91 percent\*, occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. Direct costs (for example, illness, treatment, premature death) have been estimated to be at least \$12 billion per year. The costs in terms of lost economic growth are many times more.

Original funding for the technology now being developed by OLI came from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). OLI received additional funding from the NIH to further develop specific applications that are being used in the Kite platform, and has agreements with both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Walter Reed Army Institute for Research for the testing of a range of OLI technologies relating to mosquito and other vector insects.

The product design for Kite has focused on delivering the repelling compounds in a simple, affordable, and scalable sticker that can be used by individuals for recreation, work, play, and

particularly by those in regions hardest-hit by malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. Each patch is colorful and bright, reflecting designs and colors important to various communities around the world.

“The Kite Mosquito Patch is a breakthrough product using the worldwide discovery of the compounds capable of disrupting mosquitoes’ ability to find us,” said Dr. Michelle Brown, the Chief Scientist and Vice President of OLI. “This isn’t just another mosquito product, but a powerful alternative to most products on the market, enabling people to live normal lives with a new level of protection against contracting mosquito-borne diseases.”

The Kite Mosquito Patch is one of a number of new products within the ‘Kite’ product family, all of which use OLI’s patent-pending, non-toxic compounds to repel, kill, or lure vector insects. Kite platform includes powerful advancements in mosquito lures, non-toxic larvicides, mosquito repellents and bio-pesticides.

“We want this small patch to change peoples’ lives. We’re designing Kite to deliver everyone protection from mosquitoes no matter where they are in the world,” commented Grey Frandsen, project lead and Chief Marketing Officer at ieCrowd. “It will provide a new level of protection for children in Uganda, for young families in South Africa, and hikers in Seattle or Wyoming or Florida seeking a safer, socially-responsible solution. We built Kite to be simple and affordable - a small colorful sticker that will appeal to children and adults and survive the rigors of extreme climates, play time, or outdoor recreation. Kite technology can be a true game-changer.”

Kite Mosquito Patches will be featured on Indiegogo’s crowdfunding site beginning July 16th, at 7.30am EDT. The initial funding goal is \$75,000 (£50,000), which will pay for the first Kite Mosquito Patches to be built and tested in districts of Uganda hardest hit by malaria.

ieCrowd has partnered with Pilgrim Africa, an NGO with operations in Uganda, to implement the field test, from which the data will be utilized to complete the manufacturing process and be used to begin scaling production of the Kite Mosquito Patch.

\* Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)

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