



## Austofix breaking new ground in bone healing

Company to commercialise advanced range of orthopaedic implants

In serious orthopaedic trauma situations, bones will often heal with the assistance of a metal plate and screw. South Australian orthopaedic implant manufacturer, Austofix, has developed an advanced new screw system that will have clinical as well as commercial benefits for patients, surgeons and hospitals.

Their new Variable Angle Screw Technology (VAST) improves upon current systems and will be available in implants for hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder traumas, of which there are an estimated 205,000 fractures in Australia every year.

"The VAST system features 40-degree screw angulation, whereas our competitors have a maximum of 30 degrees," said Mr Chris Henry, General Manager at Austofix. "This improvement enables the provision for lower-profile plates that can treat a greater number of fracture patterns.

"Clinically, this means fewer complications in surgery. Commercially, by using a system that utilises similar screws, hospitals can bring down the cost of goods, save stock and reduce their inventory.

"We intend to release to market a suite of upper limb plates featuring our new Variable Angle Screw Technology, with some devices to be available by March 2017."

The global market in this sector is huge, and the annual upper limb market in Australia is valued at \$605 million. Within the next five years Austofix hopes to be seeing returns of upwards of \$10 million from the VAST system and the compatible plates.

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Top: An example of Austofix's new plate and screw design.

Middle: Austofix are experienced at producing innovative orthopaedic implants.

Bottom: The new Austofix system increases the variable screw angle over competitors.

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