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Medical device company Isis Biopolymer to add jobs

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Emma A. Durand, CEO and chief technology officer of Isis Biopolymer, holds up her company's Face Lift product, which is going out to distributors and on the market soon.

The Providence Journal /
Mary Murphy

PROVIDENCE — Isis Biopolymer, a three-year-old medical device company that recently relocated to the city’s Jewelry District, plans to expand its work force from 40 to close to 50 employees by early next year as it is set to roll out an anti-aging patch.

Emma A. Durand, the company’s CEO and chief technology officer, says that the company is manufacturing for University Medical Pharmaceutical, a California-based “cosmeceuticals” company, the latest product under its Facelift line — an anti-wrinkle patch that uses the company’s patented IsisIQ Transdermal Drug Delivery patch.

A transdermal patch is an adhesive pad placed on the skin to deliver specific doses of medication through the skin and into the bloodstream. It is technology that has been around for more than 30 years, and is used in products such as motion sickness pads and Nicotine patches.

According to the company’s Web site, IsisIQ is a “compact, wireless, active iontophoretic” patch that uses a small electric charge to deliver a medicine or chemical through the skin. The bandage-like patches are fully programmable so that physicians and pharmacists can manage and monitor drug delivery.

Durand talked about the product during a ribbon-cutting and tour of the company’s new manufacturing plant and headquarters at 233 Richmond St., where she was joined by [Mayor David N. Cicilline](#) and representatives of Brown University, Lifespan and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

The 33,000-square-foot facility is the former state Department of Business Regulation offices, which moved to Cranston about two years ago. The building is one of a number in the Jewelry District owned by Brown University, including the future home of its medical school, located right across the street.

Isis Biopolymer moved into the building about six weeks ago from its original location in Warwick. The company is currently renovating much of the building and transferring staff. A manufacturing lab is already in operation.

When it is complete, the facility will have two Class 10000 Clean Rooms (controlled environments for making products), one for manufacturing and one for research and development.

Durand said Isis Biopolmyer is also conducting clinical trials on multiple products for a “leading global pharmaceutical company.”

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