

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

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## HITIQ Technology Selected for Major ARC-Funded Brain Injury Research Programme

Monash University Secures Prestigious Discovery Grant Featuring PROTEQT™ Instrumented Mouthguards

### Key Highlights

- **Major Research Partnership:** Monash University secures Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project grant of \$799,866 featuring HITIQ PROTEQT™ technology
- **Significant Commercial Pre-commitment:** 400 PROTEQT™ units to be supplied in January 2026, generating \$200,000 in revenue
- **Groundbreaking Research:** Study combining biomechanics and biomarkers to establish brain injury thresholds
- **Long-term Impact:** Research outcomes to inform global concussion protocols and validate PROTEQT™'s clinical applications

### Research Programme Overview

HITIQ Limited (ASX: HIQ) is pleased to announce that Monash University has been awarded a prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project grant of \$799,866 for groundbreaking brain injury research that will utilise HITIQ PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguards as a core technology platform.

The research programme, led by Monash University and titled "Combining biomechanics and biomarkers to establish brain injury thresholds", is now listed on the ARC successful grants website and represents a significant advancement in understanding the risks associated with repeated head impact exposure and brain damage.

Monash University has formally confirmed selection of the HITIQ PROTEQT™ system as the preferred instrumented mouthguard platform for this project and provided a pre-commitment to purchase 400 units in January 2026 for \$200,000. The university has allocated this amount within the project budget and expects ARC funds to be available in January 2026, at which point contractual arrangements will be finalised.

The study will integrate real-time biomechanical head impact data from PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguards with advanced biomarker analysis to establish definitive thresholds for brain injury risk from cumulative impact exposure. This innovative approach addresses a critical gap in sports medicine by combining objective impact measurement with biological markers of brain injury, moving beyond subjective symptom assessment to establish evidence-based thresholds that can inform return-to-play protocols, equipment standards, and injury prevention strategies globally.

ARC Discovery Projects represent Australia's most competitive and prestigious research funding for fundamental and applied research, awarded through rigorous international peer review. Selection for

an ARC Discovery Project demonstrates the research programme's scientific merit and reflects growing recognition of instrumented mouthguards as the gold standard for head impact measurement in field-based sports environments.

#### Commercial and Strategic Impact

Beyond immediate revenue, this partnership positions PROTEQT™ at the centre of leading-edge concussion research that will inform international safety protocols and clinical guidelines. The integration of HITIQ technology into ARC-funded research provides independent academic validation and establishes crucial clinical evidence for regulatory pathways and international adoption.

This ARC Discovery Project represents HITIQ's growing research partnership portfolio, which includes collaborations with leading universities and research institutions globally. These partnerships generate revenue while establishing the clinical evidence base necessary for regulatory approvals and adoption by major sporting organisations worldwide.

#### Leadership Commentary

Earl Eddings, Executive Chair, HITIQ:

"We're extremely proud that Monash University has selected PROTEQT™ technology for this prestigious ARC Discovery Project. This partnership validates our technology's scientific capabilities and positions HITIQ at the forefront of research that will shape global understanding of head impact exposure and brain injury risk. The research programme addresses fundamental questions about developing more sensitive and specific ways quantifying brain injury risk, and PROTEQT™'s ability to deliver precise biomechanical data on head impacts makes it the ideal platform for this important work. Beyond the immediate commercial benefit, this partnership establishes crucial clinical evidence that supports our regulatory pathways and demonstrates PROTEQT™'s value to the international research community."

Dr Stuart McDonald, Chief Investigator, Monash University:

"This ARC Discovery Project leverages our established collaboration with HITIQ and our previous work using their instrumented mouthguards in community Australian football. By combining high-fidelity PROTEQT™ head impact data with advanced computational models of brain strain and highly sensitive blood-based markers of brain injury, we aim to move beyond simple acceleration cut-offs towards biologically grounded thresholds for when a single head impact is likely to injure the brain. We expect this work to sharpen our ability to identify high-risk impacts, guide future helmet testing standards in sport, defence and transport settings, and ultimately support safer participation in activities where head impacts are common."

#### About PROTEQT™

PROTEQT™ is HITIQ's concussion management and athlete safety solution that delivers real-time head impact data through an instrumented mouthguard and analytics platform. Co-developed with Shock Doctor, PROTEQT™ builds on HITIQ's proven Nexus technology, already in use within elite Australian sports leagues.

### About HITIQ

HITIQ Limited (ASX: HIQ) develops concussion management and athlete safety technology for sport, clinical, and research applications worldwide. The company combines smart mouthguards and analytics platforms to deliver data-driven safety solutions.

### About Monash University

Monash University is one of Australia's leading research universities and a member of the prestigious Group of Eight. Ranked among the top 50 universities globally, Monash is renowned for its research excellence across health sciences, engineering, and biomedical research. The university maintains a strong focus on translational research that addresses real-world challenges, with particular strength in sports medicine, neuroscience, and injury prevention research.

### About the Australian Research Council

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is the Australian Government's primary funding body for fundamental and applied research. ARC Discovery Projects support excellent research projects that advance knowledge through disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research. Discovery Projects are assessed through international peer review and represent the highest standard of research excellence in Australia.

Authorised for release by the Board of HITIQ Limited

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### Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer

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