

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

11 December 2025

## HITIQ PROTEQT™ Breaks Further into US Collegiate Market with Smith College Women's Rugby Research Partnership

First US University Deployment of PROTEQT™ Instrumented Mouthguards Marks Strategic Expansion

### Key Highlights

- **PROTEQT™ US Market Debut:** First sale of PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguards to a US university, marking HITIQ's further expansion into the American collegiate sports research market with this flagship technology
- **Prestigious Research Collaboration:** Partnership with Smith College's Motor Neuroscience and Neuroimaging Laboratory, led by renowned concussion researcher Dr. Ingo Helmich
- **Women's Rugby Focus:** Research program addresses concussion risk in women's collegiate rugby, an NCAA Emerging Sport with rapid growth
- **Foundation for Expansion:** Establishes reference point for broader PROTEQT™ adoption across US collegiate athletics

### PROTEQT™ Expands HITIQ's US University Presence

HITIQ Limited (ASX: HIQ) is pleased to announce the first commercial deployment of its PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguards in the United States, with Smith College purchasing the technology to support pioneering research into concussion risk in women's collegiate rugby.

This sale marks HITIQ's further expansion into the US collegiate system, building on previous deployments such as the Nexus instrumented mouthguard system at Virginia Tech University. Smith College, a member of the historic Seven Sisters and one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, will utilize PROTEQT™ through its Motor Neuroscience and Neuroimaging Laboratory (MNN Lab), directed by Dr. Ingo Helmich, PhD.

This partnership establishes PROTEQT™ as a reference technology for concussion research in US collegiate athletics, providing a strategic foundation for broader adoption across a market that includes over 500,000 NCAA **student-athletes**.

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### Research Programme Overview

The Smith College research programme will deploy PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguards to measure head impact exposure in women's rugby players, integrating biomechanical data with advanced neuroimaging techniques (including fNIRS) to advance understanding of concussion risk factors and recovery patterns specific to female athletes.

Women's rugby is an NCAA Emerging Sport for Women, with participation and institutional support growing rapidly. The Smith College programme addresses a critical gap in concussion research, which has historically focused on male athletes, and positions PROTEQT™ as the enabling technology for this important research direction.

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### Strategic Significance and Market Opportunity

The US collegiate athletics market presents substantial opportunity for HITIQ and PROTEQT™:

- **Over 500,000 NCAA student-athletes across 1,100+ institutions**
- **Strong regulatory focus on concussion management and athlete safety**
- **Integration of athletics and research programmes driving technology adoption**
- **Significant influence on youth and high school sports nationwide**

This deployment establishes a crucial reference point for PROTEQT™ in the world's largest and most influential university sports market.

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## Leadership Commentary

Earl Eddings, Executive Chair, HITIQ:

“Launching PROTEQT™ in the US collegiate market is a major milestone for HITIQ. While our technology has previously supported research in US universities, including Virginia Tech, this is the first time PROTEQT™—our flagship concussion management platform—has been adopted in this market. Smith College’s commitment to athlete safety and research excellence, combined with Dr. Helmich’s expertise, provides an ideal foundation for demonstrating PROTEQT™’s value in the US. This partnership addresses the critical need for research focused on concussion risk in women athletes, where PROTEQT™ can make meaningful contributions to safety and recovery. Beyond immediate commercial value, this deployment creates a powerful reference point for broader adoption across US collegiate athletics.”

**Dr. Ingo Helmich, Director, Motor Neuroscience and Neuroimaging Laboratory, Smith College:**

“We are excited to partner with HITIQ and deploy PROTEQT™ technology in our women’s rugby research program. The ability to capture real-time head impact data will significantly enhance our understanding of concussion risk and recovery in female athletes. This collaboration represents an important step forward in athlete safety and scientific discovery.”

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## About Smith College

Smith College is a prestigious private liberal arts women’s college in Northampton, Massachusetts, and a member of the historic Seven Sisters. Founded in 1875, Smith is one of the largest undergraduate women’s colleges in the US, renowned for academic excellence and leadership in women’s advancement.

## About PROTEQT™

PROTEQT™, co-developed with Shock Doctor, is HITIQ’s concussion management and athlete safety solution, delivering real-time head impact data via instrumented mouthguards and analytics platforms. Building on HITIQ’s proven Nexus technology, PROTEQT™ extends elite-level athlete protection to research, collegiate, and community sports globally.

## About HITIQ

HITIQ Limited (ASX: HIQ) develops concussion management and athlete safety technology for sport, clinical, and research applications worldwide.

Authorised for release by the Board of HITIQ Limited.

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