

Best Theratronics unveils new radiation technology

By SARAH KELFORD

Staff Writer

EMC News – Kanata company Best Theratronics unveiled its advanced cancer treatment technology on Jan. 12 during a morning presentation, tour and demonstration.

This technology, called 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy (3D CRT), will be used in the company's Equinox Teletherapy cancer treatment units and allows medical professionals to deliver radiation by conforming to specific tumour shapes.

Best Theratronics designs products and solutions that help medical professionals treat cancer on a world-wide scale.

Best Theratronics has been "manufacturing, marketing, selling and servicing cobalt-based cancer therapy systems" for more than 40 years. The company began as a division of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and was sold to Canadian health company MDS Nordion and subsequently sold to Best Medical International in early 2008.

"Best Theratronics is a worldwide leader in the global fight against cancer," said Krish Suthanthiran, president of Best Theratronics, adding that the machines produced in Kanata are "actively modernizing



EMC photo by SARAH KELFORD

Marianne Wilkinson participated in a facility tour to learn more about the cancer treatment machines that are developed at Best Theratronics in Kanata.

gamma teletherapy by adding tools that will allow clinicians to target tumours and reduce side effects."

New technology

The new technology, 3D CRT, is a key part of Best Theratronics' growth strategy to focus its resources on providing affordable and reliable cancer treatment technologies globally. The company is a leading manufacturer of cobalt cancer therapy machines, blood irradiators and associated

medical equipment.

"This technology, new for our cancer treatment units, represents a further focusing of our business," said Suthanthiran. "It complements our portfolio as we will soon be able to offer advanced equipment and services required to set up cancer treatment centres, a move towards our goal of launching war on cancer globally."

Best Theratronics has been manufacturing its line of cancer treatment

machines since the 1960s. The Equinox is the latest in the line of cobalt-based cancer treatment systems.

In use around the world

Approximately 2,750 cobalt teletherapy units are in use in more than 50 countries around the world, treating thousands of cancer patients in hospitals and clinics. One of these units alone can treat 100 or more patients in a day. Advanced treatment techniques, such as 3D CRT

will breathe new life into this tried and true Canadian technology. Recent installations in Tanzania and Nicaragua were the result of joint cooperation between Best Theratronics and the International Atomic Energy Agency's "programme of Action for Cancer Treatment (PACT)."

Carleton-Mississippi Mills MP Gordon O'Connor and Ward 4 Kanata North councillor Marianne Wilkinson were on hand for the event.

Wilkinson said she was particularly interested in learning more about this local business because of her history.

"No one should be dying

of breast cancer, prostate cancer ... it's sad," said Suthanthiran. "Why are they dying? Misdiagnosis, late diagnosis..."

Suthanthiran explained that Best Theratronics offers affordable and reliable cancer treatment technology, which he hopes will help save more patients.

"With the Equinox, we can treat patients with the highest quality of treatment possible," he said. "Canadians can be proud today, they are leading the fight against cancer. We're starting a new year with new dreams and new goals."

For more information about Best Theratronics, visit www.theratronics.ca.



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Krish Suthanthiran, president of Best Theratronics, told the audience that the cancer treatment technology which is designed and manufactured at the Kanata facility is helping to treat cancer patients world-wide.