

**September 25, 2008**

## UK Company Introduces Life-Saving Technology For MRI Scanners

**Metrasens Ltd**, a UK company, has developed a ferromagnetic detection system designed to warn people entering an MRI room if they are carrying an object that may be attracted to the MRI magnet. The **Ferroguard Beacon System** is able to differentiate between safe metallic objects and hazardous ferromagnetic ones, providing an efficient way to improve the safety of hospital staff, patients and expensive machinery.

Metrasens' Ferroguard technology is already saving lives. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the UK's Russell's Hall Hospital, a nine-year-old girl was taken into an MRI room for a head scan. Before the doctors could begin the girl became hysterical, complaining of extreme pain around her nose. The child was then screened with the Ferroguard system — at the hospital only because Metrasens was giving a demonstration that day — and a strong ferrous signal was detected. It was later confirmed by x-ray that the child had two small magnets stuck in her nose, which may have ripped through her skin had the MRI scan continued.

Commenting on the incident, Superintendent Radiographer MR at Russell's Hall Hospital Tim Wicker said, "if this site had the Metrasens units installed then we would have detected the presence of the magnets BEFORE the patient entered the scan room and we would have prevented the pain caused to the patient."

Issues affecting MRI Safety are very real, yet rarely discussed. The magnets in an MRI system can cause risks to patients and staff ranging from the displacement of metal within the body (e.g. as in the above incident) to loose metal objects becoming projectiles with potential for fatal injury. Ferroguard technology significantly reduces these risks.

Ferroguard is available in two models; an unobtrusive wall mounted system and a highly flexible freestanding system. Both models can be operated in either Entryway or Pre-screen mode. Entryway mode, where the Ferroguard system is located at the entrance to the MRI suite, is designed to reduce the likelihood of a major projectile incident. Pre-screen mode, where the system is located in the changing room area and set to a high sensitivity level, is designed to scan patients for smaller items prior to entering the MRI room.

Metrasens Ltd will be exhibiting at RSNA 2008 launching its new Ferroguard Beacon product range. The company is recognized as a global leader in ferromagnetic detection technology having won a UK National Medical Technology Award in 2006 and the UKTI Innovative Exporter Award in May 2008. Metrasens Ltd, formed in July 2005 is a spin-out from the global technology innovator QinetiQ.