



Mikota Ltd recently won an Innovate UK Medicines Manufacturing Round 2: challenge fund grant for hemocyanin scale-up development.



Mikota founder Alex Mühlhölzl



It's only little, but it could play a massive role in the future of Mikota

been the CEO of Glasgow-based Collagen Solutions plc and most recently their CSO. His wealth of experience and knowledge in the manufacture and development of collagen, and its use in medical devices, make him a welcome addition to the company by the board and shareholders.

He will now help Mikota move forward with its work in extracting collagen from slipper limpets for medical use.

"We are delighted Stewart has joined the team," says Mr Mühlhölzl. "With his extensive experience with hemocyanin and collagen Stewart has a detailed understanding of Mikota's aims, market potential and unique strengths. His scientific expertise and strong business background will be invaluable as Mikota's work progresses."

Mr Mühlhölzl is also proud of the positive impact that harvesting the limpets has on the marine environment. If slipper limpets take over an area, they can create a toxic environment for other marine life. By harvesting the limpets, Mikota will be clearing the way for a more balanced ecosystem, which includes native oyster beds.

"Slipper limpets have had a massive negative impact on native oyster stocks throughout Europe, and by cutting their population we can inject new life into oyster beds that have effectively died off," says Mr Mühlhölzl, who is now looking to commercialise the opportunities provided by this new source of collagen and hemocyanin.

"Mikota is not just a biomaterials company; we are also developing medical devices in

the fields of regenerative medicine, advanced wound care, cartilage repair and osteopathy, with a range of our own products and patents in development," he says.

"Our collagen product, Maricoll, is the perfect material for developing new collagen-based devices, as well as directly substituting into present bovine/porcine collagen formulations. And as our BioCyanin has huge potential in the anti-cancer, immunology and anti-body markets, we are undertaking a range of cell screening and research projects focused on those fields.

"We are now looking forward to a very exciting 2019 in which our work will take another major leap forward with the support of this medicines manufacturing Innovate UK grant."