



FlexiCut director Robbie O'Brien with a sample holder that will help speed up medical research.

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN N0205201

Supercar engineers turn their hands to medicine

THEY'VE gone from V8 Supercars to helping advance Australian medicine. Dandenong engineering company FlexiCut has definitely earned the term "cutting edge".

FlexiCut director Robbie O'Brien said the specialist manufacturer of one-off parts

started as a one-man operation in 2007. It now employs seven people and makes parts for the top-10 V8 supercar teams in Australia.

But FlexiCut is turning its attention to science, making sample holders to speed up the development of drugs to treat cancer, HIV-AIDS

and other diseases. The parts — called pucks — are for the Australian Synchrotron, and slot into a robot-controlled system for a technique called X-ray crystallography, making it easier to analyse samples.

Australian Synchrotron worker Tom Caradoc-Davies

said the pucks would speed up the development of drugs and improve knowledge of how to treat diseases, including TB, blood clotting disorders and diabetes.

"This is a great example of a local company working with us to help improve the day-to-day lives of every

Australian," Dr Caradoc-Davies said.

Mr O'Brien said workers felt great knowing the parts were working towards curing AIDS

The Australian Synchrotron is a research facility that operates a highly advanced light source.

V8 SUPERCAR ENGINEERS (CAR OFF PARTS)

To SAMPLE HOLDERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

FLEXICUT