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Ballard misappropriated trade secrets, jury says

A federal jury this week has issued a verdict finding that Salt Lake-based Ballard Medical Products, a subsidiary of Kimberly-Clark Corp., misappropriated trade secrets from a Rhode Island designer and inventor.

The District Court jury awarded Ronald Russo of Barrington, R.I., \$17 million for misappropriation of his trade secrets and \$3 million for breach of a written confidentiality agreement, according to a press release from the Salt Lake law firm of Burbidge & Mitchell, which represented Russo.

The jury found that the conduct of Ballard Medical was "willful and malicious," the release said

The trade secrets at issue are found in Ballard Medical's closed tracheal suction devices.