

Limbs boost for landmine victims

RESEARCHERS at Strathclyde University are helping set up a "leg bank" to help Colombian landmine victims.

The South American country has the highest landmine victim rate in the world and few have access to good-quality and affordable prostheses.

A team at the university has developed technology, known as Majicast, to

manufacture lower limb prosthetic sockets which enable them to fit securely.

They have joined with Dutch-based social enterprise ProPortion to set up a service in Colombia offering artificial legs to low-income people who have lost legs through landmines, traffic accidents and infection.

Dr Arjan Buis, from Strathclyde's department of bio-

medical engineering, said:

"The Majicast's relative ease of use is particularly important in low-income countries.

"We expect that this social enterprise venture can be successfully piloted in Colombia, then developed for other parts of the world."

Landmines have killed or injured more than 10,000 people in Colombia in the past 25 years.

