

LIFTT focuses on Dialybrid and opens a new frontier in haemodialysis

The operating investment company enters into a strategic partnership in the biomedical sector with BEL-Bioengineering Laboratories. The goal of the € 300,000 round is to develop a new "hybrid" prosthesis aiming to improve the quality of therapeutic experience.

Milan, 4 August 2020 - LIFTT, the investment operating company founded by Fondazione Compagnia Di San Paolo and Politecnico di Torino, and Bioengineering Laboratories S.r.l. ("BEL"), a medical device company controlled by the Delta Med group and by the founder Francesco Greco, announce a strategic-financial partnership in the BioMed sector.

The purpose of the co-investment agreement is to fund Dialybrid S.r.l., a newly established start-up whose aim is to continue and complete the development of a proprietary technology in arteriovenous vascular grafts for haemodialysis.

To this purpose, Dialybrid has created SAG*, a semi-resorbable vascular prosthesis which gradually integrates into the body of haemodialysis patients, thanks to the hybrid nature of the Silkothane® material with which it is made.

An innovative "bionic" solution, which aims to significantly improve the quality of life of an unfortunately growing audience: today there are over two million people in need of permanent dialysis, a number set to grow due to the aging of the population and the higher incidence of diseases with consequences on renal function. The goal is to mitigate the trauma of patients, eliminating the many complications related to current therapeutic solutions.

"The grafts currently on the market - explains Guido Panizza, Head of Project Management of LIFTT - are made of synthetic materials, something "foreign" to our body, which can generate many problems for patients, one of all thrombosis. This device acts instead as a "scaffold", around which the cells grow and transform into a construct made of the patient's human tissue. The fibroin with which the graft is made is "digested" over time by the body and replaced by human cells, thus stopping the rejection effect caused by the prostheses used so far".

In the coming months, BEL and LIFTT will collaborate to identify additional investors interested in the project, in order to raise the financial resources necessary for the completion of the first phase of product development, focused on biocompatibility tests and the finalization of the industrial design.

"We are very happy with the partnership with LIFTT, which represents the ideal investor to support the further development of the Dialybrid project from a financial and strategic point of view" said Francesco Greco, founder and CEO of BEL. "In the next few years we will work alongside the Turin company to continue with the clinical tests and the industrialization of the product, aiming to start marketing it within a couple of years: the goal is to improve the lives of the millions of dialysed patients."

As Giovanni Tesoriere, CEO of LIFTT, points out, the investment is totally in line with the mission of the Turin Operating Company, which has in its President Stefano Buono an entrepreneur, but first of all a scientist, who built his own path of success on bio-tech: "It is a program that on the one hand is focused on medical bio-tech, a frontier of development and investment which is part of LIFTT's DNA. On the other hand, it has

an evident reflection on the quality of life of the people who will benefit from this technology. This aspect fully leads back to the social reflections that belong to LIFTT's values".

The transaction was carried out through the transfer by BEL of the "business going concern" relating to the Dialybrid project into the newly created company and an investment of €300,000 by LIFTT.

BEL was assisted by the LMS law firm in the transaction, while LIFTT was assisted by the law firm Sani Zangrando. EY worked as a financial advisor to Bioengineering Laboratories in the search for the partner / investor.

***SAG technology**

Thanks to the simultaneous presence of fibroin and polyurethane, and its three-layer architecture subject to patent application, SAG combines the advantages of common synthetic grafts (possibility of early cannulation) and those of native arteriovenous fistulas (good rates of long-term patency). Its technology would allow access to haemodialysis even for those patients who need urgent dialysis or who are not candidates for the implantation of a native fistula, eliminating possible rejections.

The peculiarity of SAG consists in being able to be potentially used (cannulated and connected to the dialysis machine) immediately after the implantation like the common synthetic "grafts", but, unlike them, over time it is remodelled and integrated by the host organism, getting to resemble a native vase. This solution leverages the elastic and mechanical properties of polyurethane and the high degree of biocompatibility of the organic component made up of silk fibroin, combined in the innovative Silkothane® material.

BEL

BEL is a company based in Cantù (CO) which designs, develops and manufactures complex medical devices with particular focus on the areas of dialysis, urodynamics and cardiac surgery. The company has been collaborating for years with some of the most important medical companies in the world. In 2018 it was acquired by Delta Med S.p.A. in partnership with the founder Francesco Greco.

Delta Med

Delta Med is one of the main European producers of peripheral vascular accesses, also active in the production and distribution in Italy and abroad of disposable medical devices and accessories for infusion therapy, critical care, procedural packs for operating rooms and other products for the pharmaceutical, hospital and dental industry. The company is controlled by Augens Capital in partnership with the SOF fund, managed by DB Private Equity, and with the company's management.

LIFTT (www.liftt.com)

Chaired by the scientist and entrepreneur Stefano Buono, LIFTT came to life as an operating company in December 2018, thanks to Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Politecnico di Torino, and LINKS Foundation.

The aim is to encourage technology development and transfer from University to Industry, but also to clear the way from a simple business idea to the creation of an innovative product, offering a dynamic and modern vision of venture capital as applied to Technology Transfer.



LIFTT guarantees high visibility to ideas and new businesses at a national and international level, investing and attracting capital and ensuring maximum impact on the local and national territory. While generating value for its shareholders, LIFTT supports the creation of businesses, development, employment and economic growth, through the implementation of an ethical and transparent governance model, based on the participation of all the actors involved.