Antigon raises €1.5m to CE mark portable blood transfusion security device ISABO

New corporate investors join Sambrinvest & BeAngels in enlarged round

Gosselies, Belgium, December 22nd 2021 – Antigon SA, which is developing ISABO, a portable device for ultimate safety and traceability of blood transfusions via double verification, has raised €1.5m to help it finalize development and support a European CE mark submission. In the fundraising round, which achieved more than twice its original target, existing investors Sambrinvest and BeAngels are joined by laboratory solutions company Analis SA and plastic injection moulder HTP Europe. Proceeds will also be used to finalize ISABO’s development and expand the team, particularly in sales, clinical and technical development in advance of product launch in 2023. Antigon estimates the size of its market to be €200m per year worldwide.

The company has established agreements with leading hospitals in France, Germany and Benelux, which will carry out in 2022 the clinical testing required for CE marking. Antigon, which is ISO13485-2016 certified, is looking for distribution partners to launch the product on the European market after the CE mark is obtained and then aims to continue its expansion on the global market.

Spun out of the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2016, Antigon developed the ISABO point-of-care device to be capable of quickly and simply verifying at the bedside the compatibility of the patient’s blood type and the blood bag to be transfused. ISABO uses double verification: first electronically, via a barcode/RFID system, matching the patient’s electronic identity tag to that on the blood bag; the second verification step is a proprietary rapid (three minutes) blood type* analysis to check the match between the patient’s blood and that in the bag to be transfused.

This final bedside confirmation of compatibility is expected to significantly reduce transfusion-related deaths related to administration of mismatched blood. The point-of-care device is connected to the IT infrastructure of the clinic or hospital, ensuring maximum traceability and security. It is expected to be able to manage up to 10 patients simultaneously.

In data so far, the company has shown 100% ABO blood type concordance. ISABO also has potential in rapid blood typing in the emergency setting and in the clinical laboratory.

Thomas Liénard, Chairman of Antigon, said ‘This latest fundraising round will allow Antigon to finalize ISABO’s development and submit its first CE mark dossier, and we are pleased to have seen such strong demand from investors. The company would
like to thank Sambrinvest and BeAngels for their ongoing support, and looks forward to working with the new investors Analis SA and HTP Europe to help advance ISABO to the market.’

Helena Pozios, Head of Life Sciences Unit at Sambrinvest, added, ‘Sambrinvest is pleased to have led this financing round for Antigon, which has made significant progress since our initial investment. Its ISABO technology is expected to play an important role in the reduction of transfusion-related deaths, and is a major step forward in blood transfusion safety.’

Vincent Luyckx, CEO of Analis SA said, ‘Analis is an established player in the Benelux in vitro diagnostic market. The partnership with Antigon fits fully with our strategic decision to enter the connected point-of-care in vitro diagnostic segment.’

Geoffrey Ducrocq, Director of HTP Europe, added, ‘HTP Europe, a specialized injection molding company located in Belgium, is pleased to actively support Antigon’s development strategy as it reinforces our positioning in the medtech product segment, in addition to current aeronautic applications.’

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* ABO and RhesusD blood groups.

For further information, please contact:

Antigon SA
Thierry Baltus, CEO  thierry_baltus@antigon.eu

About Antigon

Located in the Brussels South Charleroi BioPark in Belgium, Antigon aims to improve transfusion safety through a patented technology created by Professors Corazza Francis and Hanane El Kenz of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Antigon is developing and launching a new, easy-to-use point-of-care testing device that allows healthcare professionals to check the match between a patient's ABO blood group and the blood bag intended for the patient, with full reliability. For more information about the company and its ISABO technology please go to www.antigon.eu, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk50OyxkUCg&t=17s https://youtu.be/vyfj0cW4koA