



## PRESS RELEASE

Nantes, 26 November 2020

### **BHealthcare raises €1.5M to finalise its robotic blood sampling platform "Heiva™"**

**BHealthCare - a former startup of the Centrale-Audencia-ensa business incubator - is a medtech company specializing in the development of next-generation robotic solutions for more reliable peripheral vascular access. It has just announced seed funding of €1.5 million secured in June 2020, together with other public funds. This supplements several funding mechanisms and grants to the tune of €2.8 million obtained since the creation of the company in 2016. The operation was carried out exclusively with leading biologists and renowned specialists in the medical field.**

#### **CLINICAL TRIALS PLANNED AS EARLY AS 2021**

Since its creation 4 years ago, BHealthCare, former startup of the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa incubator, has raised 4.3 million euros to develop its HEIVA™ robotics platform. In daily contact with leading biologists, the startup is convinced that its robotic solution represents the future of patient care with regard to efficient blood sampling.

*"This is genuine recognition of our teams' work. The funding will accelerate the company's growth and allow us to finalise development of our HEIVA™ product. Above all, we will be able to conduct our clinical trials with a view to obtaining the CE marking and gradually launch the product on the market. The commercial launch will require further support though" - Aliaume Breteau-Hascoët and Jean-Baptiste de Chaisemartin, the two founders and CEOs, respectively biomedical and embedded systems engineers from ECE Paris and double degree graduates of Audencia Business School. Moreover, this "financing comes on top of funding already obtained from public bodies and our shareholders. In fact, we have also secured additional BPI funding. Our goal is to gradually prepare for international expansion in Europe, the United States and the Middle East. In our opinion, this funding has been doubly successful, due to the financial support but also to the quality of the people who made this operation possible. We have been able to extend the scope of our shareholder base, which is already mainly composed of biologists managing French companies, to biologists managing companies that are also expanding internationally. This continues to demonstrate the consistency between our vision and the needs expressed by the market for patient care."*

With HEIVA™, BHealthCare offers a robotic alternative to the current manual process for drawing blood. It is both innovative and perfectly suited to healthcare professionals, providing greater efficiency, comfort and safety for their patients. HEIVA™ improves the entire process for the laboratory, its staff and patients. In practical terms, the solution covers all aspects of patient management in the context of blood sampling. It provides unrivalled patient comfort and efficiency of care with a fully automated and safe process from patient arrival to departure including needle insertion and tube collection *"For the first time in the world our device is performing a medical, robotic and invasive operation in full autonomy with a conscious patient accompanied by healthcare personnel. This is unprecedented, even on an international scale."* - Aliaume Breteau-Hascoët and Jean-Baptiste de Chaisemartin.

The HEIVA™ robotic platform has already received very promising feedback from the biologists involved in the project. The product is perceived as an all-in-one quality service for the patient, the practitioner and the laboratory.

## **A FAST-GROWING MARKET ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH OVER 22 BILLION DOLLARS**

The HEIVA™ platform is thus part of a rapidly growing global market, and even more so in the current public health crisis. Such an innovation has never been so relevant than with Covid-19, and for any similar health context requiring widespread patient care to perform blood sampling, while protecting the nursing staff. The blood sampling market represents 25 million samples taken every day worldwide.

This cutting-edge tool designed for patients and laboratory staff is based on major technologies protected by several families of international patents that BHealthCare owns outright. This technology guarantees the quality of the sample as well as the traceability of the procedure for the laboratory.

BHealthCare has backing from BPIFrance's Investments of the Future Programme and French Tech Seed. Since 2017 and until 2021, it has also enjoyed support from the European Union via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This European regional program funds the company's R&D to the tune of €1.125M, in the form of a grant. The company is also a recipient of the Prêt d'honneur territoire innovation (honorary loan for regional innovation) awarded by the Atlantic entrepreneur network. Finally, since its creation, it has been supported by Centrale Innovation, the Centrale- Audencia-Ensa incubator, and by Atlanpole, a regional innovation hub in the west of France supported by the French Ministry of Research and belonging to the global network of innovation hubs (IASP).

### **About BHEALTHCARE**

*BHealthCare is a French company, created by Aliaume Breteau and Jean-Baptiste de Chaisemartin in Nantes at the end of 2016. Their long-term vision is to make BHealthCare the world leader in peripheral vascular robotics. A field with multiple medical and paramedical applications. Today, their primary objective is to shape the future of blood collection by combining their respective know-how in medical imaging and precision robotics with the expertise of healthcare personnel, for the benefit of patient care. BHealthCare, which currently has 15 employees, aims to double its workforce within the year.*

### **WEB SITE**

[www.bhealthcare.fr](http://www.bhealthcare.fr)

### **CONTACT**

*Aliaume Breteau - Président cofondateur - [contact@beehealthcare.fr](mailto:contact@beehealthcare.fr)*