



DIAMIDEX

MICROBIOLOGICAL EXPRESS DIAGNOSIS

MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

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Specialist in microbiological testing,  
**DIAMIDEX CLOSES A €2.9 M FINANCING ROUND**

**A first fundraising to accelerate its development**

**In support of a first application: making the invisible visible, quickly detect in water the pathogenic bacterium responsible for Legionnaire's disease**

The cutting-edge Diamidex® technology, allowing the marking and identification of targeted microorganisms, has been granted **€2 million** in private equity financing, supplemented by a **€400k** loan from **Total Développement Régional** and a **€500k contribution from Bpifrance**.

These funds will be mainly used to accelerate the **commercial deployment** of the first all-in-one solutions for testing the presence of *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria in water, currently marketed by Diamidex under the brand C4Hydro. Those new products meet a growing need for reliable tools to prevent health risks related to water networks (urban infrastructures, touristic and leisure facilities, health establishments, industries), in response to a significant increase in legionellosis cases (a potentially fatal pneumonia caused by this bacterium, of which **cases reported in Europe doubled** since 2011, with an average 18% annual growth over the past 3 years).

Diamidex is particularly proud of the **renewed trust of its historical shareholders** - including SATT Sud-Est (which has transferred an exclusive licence for the technology patented by Aix-Marseille University, CNRS and Université Paris-Sud), and the RAs -, of the entry to the share capital of most of its **collaborators**, and happy to welcome among its new shareholders a group of **health sector** professionals.

<sup>1</sup> Source : ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control), <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/legionnaires-disease/surveillance/atlas>



## A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS



### Total Développement Régional

*“We are delighted to support the development of this new technology, and to help accelerating its commercialization phase,” said **Isabelle Patrier, Total Développement Régional Director.** “This new project illustrates Total Développement Régional’s goal for sustaining French companies employment creation within the territories.”*

### SATT Sud-Est

*“At SATT Sud-Est, we have been aware since the very beginning of the tremendous innovation potential of Diamidex, a deeptech start-up resulting from the research of Aix-Marseille University, the CNRS and the Université Paris-Sud, which is fully in line with the «capital innovation» dynamic. We are proud to have supported it from the project’s maturation phase to its transfer. After having been part of the project, SATT Sud-Est congratulates today the entire Diamidex team and its partners, for this fundraising campaign that augurs well for future success in meeting the challenges ahead, particularly in the commercial deployment of its express microbiological diagnostic solutions,” said **Laurent BALY, President of SATT Sud-Est.***



### Dr Mersali

*«As members of various medical specialties, this fundraising is an opportunity for us and our colleagues to support the development of a revolutionary technique for the marking and identification of living microorganisms. Given the growing difficulty of managing infectious diseases today, both in terms of resources and available equipment, the infectious risks prevention strikes us as a major society challenge» **Dr. Farid Mersali, Medical Biologist, with a degree in infectious and tropical diseases.***



### RA

*«Rugby Angels has decided to renew its support to the founders of Diamidex after the merger of the group’s various entities. This coherent combination of expertise forms a solid basis on which Diamidex can strengthen its R&D department and accelerate its business development strategy by focusing on its customers’ needs. This is why Rugby Angels has increased its financial participation in Diamidex,» said **Fabien Picard and Maxime Kusak Depailler, Rugby Angels’ representatives to Diamidex’s management.***

## Diamidex

Resulting from the merger of three start-ups promoting and developing since 2014 a breakthrough technology patented by the CNRS, Aix-Marseille University, and the Université Paris-Sud, Diamidex is a company with three skills: scientific, technical and industrial. This three-dimensional approach allows it to develop and market complete and autonomous solutions for detecting the presence of microorganisms in the environment on an international scale. In addition to the specific marking of microorganisms of interest, Diamidex is working to extend the use of its technology and to file several patents in its own name. Currently employing 30 people at 2 sites in the Marseille area, Diamidex actively contributes, through its rapid growth, to the attractiveness and dynamism of its territory

**Website :** [www.diamidex.com](http://www.diamidex.com)

**LinkedIn :** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/diamidex/>

## Total Développement Régional

Total Développement Régional encourages and supports projects in France, and in particular in the territories and employment areas in which the Group is reorganizing, that create, take over and develop SMEs, in the industrial sectors and in services to industry, business or communities. Our objective: the creation or preservation of permanent jobs in France in sectors other than oil. In 2018, 178 SMEs received €11.3 million in loans from Total Développement Régional to support 3,343 jobs.

## Bpifrance

Bpifrance finances companies - at each stage of their development - in the form of loans, guarantees and equity. Bpifrance supports their innovation projects and in their international activities. Bpifrance also ensures their export activity through a wide range of products. Consulting, university, networking and acceleration programs for start-ups, SMEs and midcap companies are also part of the offer for entrepreneurs. Thanks to Bpifrance and its 48 regional offices, entrepreneurs benefit from a close, unique and efficient interlocutor to support them in meeting their challenges.

**Website :** [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) – [presse.bpifrance.fr](http://presse.bpifrance.fr)

**Twitter :** @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse

## **SATT Sud-Est (Société d'Accélération du Transfert de Technologies Sud-Est)**

SATT Sud-Est is a key player in regional economic development linked to innovation. Its core business - technology transfer - consists in protecting, developing and transferring research results from public laboratories in the South & Corsica Regions to the socio-economic world. The objective is to help companies to acquire innovations that are more reliable and more suited to their industrial challenges. Simplified joint-stock company with a share capital of €1 million, its shareholders and founding partners are the Universities of Aix-Marseille, Nice Sophia Antipolis, Toulon, Avignon, Corsica, Ecole Centrale Marseille, CNRS, Inserm and Bpifrance; AP-HM and Nice University Hospital. This project is financed with the support of the European Union and the European Regional Development Fund. SATT Sud-Est is a member of the SATT Network. As at January 31, 2019, the Company employed 44 employees and 19 maturing engineers. Its head office is located at the Silo de Marseille; an antenna is based in Sophia Antipolis.

**Website :** <https://www.sattse.com/>

**Twitter :** @SATTse\_

## **RA (Rugby Angels)**

RA is a group of Business Angels, an association of private investors, women and men mainly from the top French business and engineering schools who have played rugby during their studies, as well as professional rugby players and other investors who believe in the core values of solidarity and benevolence towards the entrepreneurs that RA follows. RA examines, supports and assists projects in diverse sectors during the company's first rounds of funding, through investment tickets generally ranging from €50k to €200k per financing round. RA also provides its network of experts in order to help entrepreneurs in the management of their company as well as in their business development.

**Website :** [www.large-rugby.com/rugby-angels](http://www.large-rugby.com/rugby-angels)

**LinkedIn :** [www.linkedin.com/company/rugby-angels](http://www.linkedin.com/company/rugby-angels)

## **Dr Mezi et Dr Mersali**

Dr. Mezi and Dr. Mersali, who have been friends since their medical studies in Marseille, have succeeded in bringing together in their network a group of investors, doctors and biologists, whose shared ambition is to provide their support and expertise to innovative projects that can have real impacts in the health field.

Among the projects supported, the creation of the first regional healthcare centre in a large city in France. The 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> center houses around 50 doctors in the northern districts of Marseille, underprivileged neighbourhoods and till then poorly equipped with local healthcare infrastructures. Today, these 2 doctors, respectively Dermatologist - specialist in infectious and sexually transmitted diseases - and Biological Doctor, both with solid training in microbiology, have seen in the technology developed by Diamidex a breakthrough innovation with tremendous potential impacts in their fields of expertise.