

For immediate publication

PRESS RELEASE

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BIONOMOUS raises CHF 1.3 million Seed funding in a round led by Nivalis Group.

BIONOMOUS, the Swiss-based startup who builds devices to automate processes in Life Science research, announces today it has raised a CHF 1.3 million Seed funding round led by Nivalis Group, with participation from SICTIC business angels and Venture Kick.

Experts in mechatronics, microfluidics and machine learning, Bionomous develops the EggSorter, a device that automatically inspects, sorts and dispenses small biological entities like the eggs of zebrafish, a small freshwater fish native to South Asia. Its eggs are particularly suited for research in the Life Sciences industry, to find new treatments, perform toxicology tests or better understand the biology and genetics of living organisms.

With the EggSorter, laboratories can standardize all processes and increase research throughput.

The investment from Nivalis Group marks the start of a new development phase for Bionomous. Nivalis Group CEO Nicolas Corsi explains why they have taken an interest: “We are confident that Bionomous is a great addition to the Nivalis Group family. With this investment we ticked off all the boxes we look for in a startup: a growing market segment, a product with excellent traction, a great team, and several underlying technologies that match our existing investments and allow us to create interesting synergies.”

For the SICTIC investors, the reasons to invest are clear. In the words of Marcel Egger, lead SICTIC investor: “We found during our talks and in the due diligence process a great team with the right attitude. The product has numerous existing and future possible expansions in a promising technology in the medical, pharma research and numerous other fields. We are looking forward to contributing to this exciting venture!”

The closing of this Seed funding round allows Bionomous to accelerate the testing phase, to develop a certified product ready-for-market, and to prepare for industrialization. Frank Bonnet Bionomous CEO & co-founder explains: “Our team has demonstrated its capacity to develop products tailored to the specific needs of our customers. This new investment, in addition to the interest of early adopters and the first confirmed orders we received despite the COVID pandemic, allow us to confidently move to the next development phase of our final product and to target a commercialization over the next two years.”

Ana Hernando, Bionomous CMO & co-founder, adds: “Leaders in the zebrafish field have expressed great interest in the EggSorter, which gives us the confidence to launch it to the market. Furthermore, we have received several requests to use our technology in other fields such as personalized medicine, diagnostics and aquaculture. Thanks to this investment round, our team can explore the possibilities to apply our technology to other segments and study new opportunities to diversify our product lines.”

About Bionomous

Bionomous is a Swiss startup born at EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne). It was founded in November 2019 with the aim of building devices to automate the visual inspection, sorting and dispensing of small biological entities. The company has developed the 'EggSorter' which is designed to handle zebrafish eggs and similar entities, and which is now already being used in some laboratories in Switzerland and Europe.

About Nivalis Group

Nivalis Group is a Swiss Holding that supports and invests in startups that specialize in automation, robotics, additive manufacturing and artificial intelligence. Nivalis Group advocates innovation and uses smart money investments to help these high-tech startups develop unique products and technologies. Focusing on Seed and Series A equity investments, the group supports startups with a technology park and a team of professional experts in business development, finance, human resources, IT, marketing and communications.

About SICTIC

Swiss ICT Investor Club (SICTIC) connects smart money investors to Swiss seed and early-stage technology startups. SICTIC is a non-profit association, which has a strong investor community and organizes the deal flow and matchmaking of startups and investors online and at pitching events. Since 2018, SICTIC has become the largest and most active business angel network in Switzerland and was awarded "Best Performing EBAN Member 2018" from over 150 member organizations in more than 50 countries.

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