Media Release

Limula SA receives CHF 2.5 million in non-dilutive funding to accelerate the industrialisation of a closed, automated, and modular solution for Cell and Gene Therapy manufacturing.

- Swiss company won highly competitive funding provided by the country's innovation agency Innosuisse through its Accelerator program.
- Funding will support the transition from R&D to commercial activities, through industrialisation of a first product, and growing the team with skills key to a successful market entry.
- This non-dilutive funding will complement the company's first equity round planned for 2023.

Lausanne, 28 April 2023 – Limula SA, a company based in Lausanne, Switzerland, announces today that it has been awarded a CHF 2.5 million (€ 2.5 million) non-dilutive Accelerator grant from Innosuisse, the Swiss innovation agency. Following a three-stage evaluation process, Limula was selected amongst the 753 Swiss start-ups and SMEs that submitted a proposal. With a total budget of CHF 112 million, Innosuisse aims to support 53 of the country's most promising start-up companies in their market entry phase.

Cell & Gene Therapies: from treatments to cures.

Over the past five years, six cancer therapies based on gene-edited cells – called chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells – have been approved in the USA and in Europe, and many more are in development. Spectacular results were obtained in young children suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, but also in adults with other forms of blood cancers, many of them remaining cancer-free more than a decade after receiving a single injection. With more under evaluation at pre-clinical stage and in clinical trials, Cell and Gene Therapy products have the potential to cure millions of patients globally each year. These 'living drugs' leverage the latest discoveries in cellular engineering and oncology and provide the immune system with a significant boost against previously uncurable tumours. Unfortunately, with a cost of up to half a million Swiss francs per patient, these life-saving treatments remain unavailable to most patients suffering from what are now curable conditions. This is in part because obtaining CAR T and other cell therapy products from the patients' own cells still involves many manual steps, making them too complex and too expensive to produce at scale.

Addressing the manufacturing bottleneck with automation.

To address the problem of manufacturing capacity, Limula is developing a closed, automated, and modular cell processing device. The unique technology developed by Limula has the potential to enable carrying out every step of the complex process in a single self-contained device, with minimal operator intervention. This solution decreases the need for large clean room facilities that are costly to build and maintain. It also prevents errors and contamination stemming from human manipulations. Limula aim to provide an enabling tool for clinical centres and biopharma companies involved in the development of new cell therapy products. The ambition is to provide an enabling technology key to scalable manufacturing of these revolutionary and highly personalised cures.

Fresh non-dilutive funding supporting the industrialisation of a first product.

Over the past 2 years, Limula has collaborated with several academic and industrial partners to develop an automated solution suitable for cell processing across different applications. After a successful proof of concept and a series of pilot tests with early adopters using a functional prototype, this additional funding will provide Limula with the financial means to embark on the industrialisation of its first product. The objective is to bring to market a device and a single use consumable that are meeting GMP requirements, to be used by cell therapy providers in their transition from pre-clinical evaluation to clinical trials, and later commercial scale manufacturing of clinical-grade cell products.

About Limula

Limula SA is a Life Science start-up based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The company was founded in late 2020 by Dr. Luc Henry, Dr. Yann Pierson and Dr. Thomas Eaton to help all stakeholders in the Cell and Gene Therapy value chain bring the most personalized cancer treatments to patients in need, at reasonable cost, wherever they are. To achieve this goal, the multidisciplinary team of engineers and biologists develops a unique cell processing technology, with the ambition to deliver end-to-end production of cell therapies at scale, through automation and standardisation.

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