

# MilliDrop receives €1.9 million from Bpifrance to develop a rapid diagnosis test for sepsis

Paris, France, September 12, 2018 – **MilliDrop**, which designs and develops cell culture solutions based on millifluidics technology for bacteriological research and diagnosis purposes, **announces it has been awarded €1.9 million in non-dilutive financing from Bpifrance to accelerate the development of its blood infection diagnosis system for sepsis.**

Millidrop receives this funding as a laureate of the “Concours d’Innovation” (Innovation Challenge) in the health category with its project “Droplet-Based Integrated Diagnosis from Blood Culture to AntibioGram”, that was backed by the Medicen Paris Région competitiveness cluster. MilliDrop’s goal is to speed up the microbiological diagnosis process for patients with sepsis.

Yamina Ghomchi, MilliDrop’s CEO, commented: *“We are proud to be selected by the “Concours d’Innovation”. In just 12 hours, our innovative solution will isolate and identify infectious bacteria, and establish which antibiotics can be administered effectively to the patient. This targeted adjustment of antibiotherapy after 12 hours rather than the usual 48 hours will also help to combat the emergence of multi-resistant bacteria, a global health priority for the WHO.”*

## **Sepsis, a major public health priority (\*)**

Worldwide, one person dies every 3-4 seconds from sepsis, causing **between 6 and 9 million deaths every year**. In industrialized nations, sepsis remains a major cause of death and is responsible for more deaths than HIV, breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Sepsis usually occurs following a bacterial infection which spreads to the bloodstream. The emergence of antibiotic resistance has made it harder to treat. Administering an effective and targeted antibiotic as early as possible is crucial for patient survival and to avoid serious sequelae.

*“The Paris region ecosystem is a breeding ground for innovative businesses that are successfully establishing worldwide”,* added Christian Lajoux, Chairman of Medicen Paris Region. *“We are delighted to witness the exceptional quality of the French medtech companies, which show outstanding results in both the academic fields and their business development. We are thrilled to support businesses with promising projects such as MilliDrop.”*

The “Concours d’Innovation” is an excellence-supporting device that operates in the digital technologies field and is financed by the Program of Investments for the Future (PIA). This program - which is jointly-ran by Bpifrance, ADEME and FranceAgriMer - aims to support innovative projects pursued by SMEs and start-ups. It also aspires to nurture the emergence of world-class French champions in eight key areas: health; digital; French Fab; security and cybersecurity; transportation and sustainable mobility; renewable energies; storage and energy systems; innovation to enhance the quality of terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems; innovative agriculture. Eight projects were selected by Bpifrance in the health category for the 2018 Concours d’Innovation’s first wave.

**About MilliDrop:**

MilliDrop was created in 2015 with the ambition to accelerate the characterization methods in microbiology by revolutionizing the size of microorganism cultures. Its first instrument, the MilliDrop Analyzer, is now marketed to research laboratories. MilliDrop will leverage on its know-how and its technology to develop a diagnostic tool for blood infections.

[www.millidrop.com](http://www.millidrop.com)

**About Bpifrance:**

Bpifrance is the French national investment bank: it finances businesses – at every stage of their development – through loans, guarantees, equity investments and export insurances. Bpifrance also provides extrafinancial services (training, consultancy...) to help entrepreneurs meet their challenges (innovation, export...).

For more information, please visit: [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) and [presse.bpifrance.fr](http://presse.bpifrance.fr) - Follow us on Twitter: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse

**About Medicen Paris Region:**

Medicen Paris Region is a competitiveness cluster for innovative health technologies, with national and international scope. With more than 400 companies, research centers, universities, hospitals and local authorities as members, it aims to position the Paris region as Europe's leading healthcare cluster. It focuses on five strategic areas: biological diagnostics, diagnostic and interventional imaging, regenerative medicine and biomaterials, digital health and translational medicine. In close collaboration with local, regional and national healthcare innovation players, Medicen Paris Region aims to:

- Foster the emergence, development and funding of certified collaborative projects in the healthcare sector, in order to create economic value and jobs
- Increase the international development of innovative startups and SMEs
- Strengthen the attractiveness of the Paris region, which represents more than 50% of life sciences activity in France

Since the creation of the cluster in 2005, 68 innovative products have been launched in the imaging, medical devices and biological tools sectors. The cluster has certified 302 projects. They received funding from the French government (French Inter-Ministry Fund FUI, Structuring Projects fund), the public investment bank Bpifrance, the National Research Agency, the European Regional Development Fund, the Investments for the Future program and/or local authorities, and the Paris region. Total investment is close to €1.9 billion (\$2.3bn) and €533 million (\$635M) of public aid.

[www.medicen.org](http://www.medicen.org)

*(\*)World Sepsis Day, under the aegis of the Global Sepsis Alliance, September 13th 2018. <https://www.world-sepsis-day.org>*

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