

SENSE BIODETECTION, AN EARLYBIRD PORTFOLIO COMPANY, ACCELERATES INSTRUMENT-FREE MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR COVID-19

- Sense Biodetection is developing a pioneering new class of diagnostic product that will transform fight against pandemic.
- Veros™ instrument-free disposable tests allow for decentralised testing anywhere, with lab-quality performance, in under 10 minutes.
- Scale-up with Phillips-Medisize is underway to ensure timely delivery and distribution.

Cambridge, 31st March 2020 – [Sense Biodetection Limited](#) (Sense) has today announced an accelerated programme to launch the world's first instrument-free, point-of-care molecular diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sense is partnering closely with Phillips-Medisize, a Molex company and leading global medical device innovator, developer and manufacturer, to scale-up production of its test in order to meet the growing demand for rapid diagnostics.

Sense's Veros™ SARS-CoV-2 is a simple disposable test that uses a nasal swab sample to give an ultra-rapid result without the need for any instrumentation. As a molecular test, its performance is equivalent to Gold Standard laboratory tests, but it is easy-to-use in any setting and results are available in under 10 minutes. The test is fully self-contained and can be widely distributed to wherever it is needed, overcoming the logistical and contamination problems associated with machine-based testing.

Harry Lamble, chief executive officer at Sense, commented: "Our Veros™ COVID-19 test product can allow infected patients to be isolated sooner whilst providing reassurance to uninfected individuals including healthcare workers that they can return to work without infecting others. Due to its flexibility, speed and accuracy, the test can be deployed for rapid patient triage within hospitals as well as primary care practices, pharmacies and community centres and even distributed for use by individuals in isolation who suspect they may have COVID-19."

Sense's Veros™ SARS-CoV-2 exploits proprietary chemistry and device technologies developed by Sense over the last six years for other infectious disease applications including influenza (flu). In 2019, Sense announced a £12.3m Series A investment round co-led by Earlybird and Cambridge Innovation Capital (CIC). It has since rapidly scaled its operations and is in a strong position to impact the current pandemic. The COVID-19 product will be one of the first tests to be marketed by the company under its Veros™ brand.

Mike Anstey, investment partner at CIC, commented: "Sense is developing a product that will be hugely important to the global effort to contain COVID-19 in the coming months and potentially years. CIC and co-investors Earlybird, Mercia, and Jonathan Milner are working closely with Sense to ensure it has all the resources it needs as it accelerates towards launch of the first disposable nucleic acid test for COVID-19."

About Sense

Sense Biodetection Limited is a molecular diagnostics company focused on bringing tests to the True Point-of-Care™. Sense was founded in 2014 by Harry Lamble and Ralph Lamble, who combined their respective expertise in molecular sciences and medical device design to realise their vision of empowering patients through decentralised testing. Sense has developed a new class of diagnostic product to break down the barriers that have led to the current model of centralised testing. Sense products are simple, ultra-rapid, handheld tests which remove the need for advanced hardware to determine a result. Sense operates from bespoke laboratory, development and manufacturing facilities in Cambridge and Oxford, UK and is growing rapidly as it takes its first products to market.

Learn more about Sense: www.sense-bio.com.

About Earlybird

Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused on European technology companies. Founded in 1997, Earlybird invests in all growth and development phases of a company. Amongst the most experienced venture investors in Europe, Earlybird offers its portfolio companies not only financial resources, but also strategic and operational support as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird manages different funds with focuses on digital technologies in Eastern and Western Europe as well as healthcare technologies. With over EUR 1 billion under management, seven IPOs and 24 trade sales, Earlybird is one of the most successful venture capital firms in Europe.

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