

Poland: EIB lends up to EUR 10 million to Scope Fluidics to develop diagnostics equipment for infectious diseases



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- **The Polish medical technology company develops innovative and real-time tests**
- **that can be used also for COVID-19**
- **This is the first operation in Poland under the Infectious Diseases Financing Facility**
- **of Horizon 2020, the EU Research and Innovation programme for 2014-2020**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to lend up to EUR 10 million to Scope Fluidics, a Polish medical technology company developing innovative products in the field of medical diagnostics. Scope Fluidics uses microfluidic technologies (involving the manipulation of small quantities of test samples within a disposable diagnostic cartridge) and focuses on rapid characterization of antibiotic resistance of bacteria and on ultra-fast detection of bacterial and viral pathogens (including COVID-19).

The EIB financing will support the company's efforts to develop new, efficient and affordable methods for detection of pathogens causing

infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Apart from striving to aid the fight with COVID-19 pandemic, Scope Fluidics' team is also focused on the Antimicrobial Resistance ("AMR"), which is one of the gravest threats to global health. Testing a broader range of infectious diseases may significantly increase the standard of care and the effectiveness of prevention of complications in the evolving pandemic.

By sustaining the company's further clinical trials that will allow the commercial launch of the system, the EIB helps address a market gap in available financing options for innovative players active in developing new vaccines and drugs, innovative medical and diagnostic devices or novel research infrastructure for combatting infectious diseases (ID). The project has also the potential to foster growth in this sector and create new jobs in Poland and in the EU for highly skilled people and in the field of research and development.

The financing comes from a joint European Commission and EIB initiative – the Infectious Diseases Finance Facility (IDFF) – backed by the Horizon 2020, the EU Research and Innovation programme 2014-2020. It will be the first project in Poland under the IDFF. To date, 14 operations have been signed in Europe under IDFF for a total amount of EUR 372m.

The agreement was signed today in Warsaw by prof. [Teresa Czerwińska](#), EIB Vice-President, who oversees operations in Poland, and prof. **Piotr Garstecki**, co-founder and chairman of the Board at Scope Fluidics.

*"I am delighted to sign today the first EIB loan to a Polish company under the Infectious Diseases Financing Facility, which is part of the European InnovFin programme", said prof. **Teresa Czerwińska**. "By investing in this project, the Bank will provide a relevant contribution to the scientific advancement in the field of diagnostic equipment for infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This has the potential to unlock new paradigms for disease diagnostics and antimicrobial resistance." **Teresa Czerwińska** added: "This operation timely follows the [agreement](#) last week with the Ministry of Finance for a EUR 650 million EIB loan to help the government fight against COVID-19. As the EU bank, we think it is important to support Poland's efforts against the pandemic at all levels".*

*"The Scope Fluidics team has created a modern PCR|ONE system that detects dangerous bacteria and viruses in a breakthrough time of 15 minutes. Our recent efforts focused on the rapid detection of the Covid-19 virus have given the PCR|ONE project an additional importance and business dimension – in line with the global effort to combat the pandemic. Today's agreement with the EIB is a great joy for us – our goal is to change modern medical diagnostics into faster, more informative and accessible, in order to gain a real impact on improving the quality and effectiveness of modern medicine. On behalf of the entire Scope Fluidics team, I would like to thank EIB for the trust of such an experienced institution" – **says prof. Piotr Garstecki, CEO of Scope Fluidics**. "EIB will be an important partner for us, with extensive experience in financing European lifescience ventures, including companies from the molecular diagnostics industry. The agreement concluded today aims*

to support the commercialization of the systems we develop, including increasing the intensity of activities in the PCR|ONE project's Early Access Program. We have joined the group of companies such as Stat-Dx, Curetis and Mobidiag, which have also obtained similar funding from EIB in recent years" – **adds Prof. Piotr Garstecki.**

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"Diagnostic tests are essential to enable front-line health workers to make the diagnosis quickly and accurately, as well as to reduce the risk of further spread of viruses, including the coronavirus. This is a very important element of the Coronavirus Global Response strategy. With this loan to Scope Fluidics the EU is making one step closer to finding solutions to fight the coronavirus pandemic. I am also very pleased that, through the Infectious Diseases Finance Facility, we are supporting for the first time a company based in Poland to carry out this very promising project."*

Background information

The [InnovFin Infectious Diseases Finance Facility](#) (IDFF) is a financial product dedicated to support the fight against infectious diseases. The joint European Commission and EIB Group initiative falls under Horizon2020, the 2014-2020 EU research and innovation programme. IDFF enables the EIB to provide between €7.5 million and €75 million of funding to innovative players active in developing vaccines, drugs, medical and diagnostic devices and research infrastructure for combatting infectious diseases. The loans finance clinical trials, market access, the development of prototypes or industrial roll out of novel equipment, pre-clinical R&D and working capital needs. The IDFF has been reinforced by €400 million to better tackle the outbreak of COVID-19.

[Scope Fluidics SA](#) is a hub that grows med-tech start-ups, each developing a radical solution to a challenge in global health. The company responds to the global challenges in human health, by designing disruptive diagnostic systems, with the potential to positively impact access to effective healthcare across the world. PCR|ONE system targets healthcare-associated infections and infection control, by offering unprecedented access to molecular Dx information at the point of care. BacterOMIC promises access to precision antibiotic therapies at the price of conventional antibiotic susceptibility testing.

[PCR|ONE](#) system is a complete, stand-alone solution for immediate detection of a wide range of pathogens and genetic targets in the point of care format. The system accepts disposable cartridges that are loaded with clinical samples and automatically processed for detailed diagnosis within 15 minutes. The PCR|ONE system offers a unique combination of record speed and breadth of up to 20 genetic targets that can be identified in a single run, from a single sample.

[BacterOMIC](#) is the first system to offer full and actionable information for precision antibiotics therapies. BacterOMIC problems all clinically relevant antibiotics in single test. BacterOMIC is also the first system to offer automated testing of multiple antibiotic combinations.

European Cooperation: CTI Data Quality Validator in Lithuania

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European Cooperation: CTI Data Quality Validator in Lithuania



The [State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania](#) (VPB) has implemented the CTI Data Quality Validator (DQV) as part of the “Major Improvements to TMview and DesignView” project.

The DQV is a set of dashboards, developed in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Department of the EUIPO, which gives a real-time view of the data quality of trade marks and designs in each IP office. It allows IP offices to take a more proactive role in improving the data quality of their registrations, and in turn, those in [TMview](#) and [DesignView](#).

The Lithuanian office is the first IP office to implement the DQV, with more implementations expected in the future, including in Malta, Estonia, Spain, Poland, and Greece.

EUIPO and its stakeholders are collaborating on eight major European Cooperation Projects. These projects aim to benefit users across the EU by providing modern, state-of-the-art tools and services for intellectual property offices.

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Italian: UniCredit and the EIB 200 million euros to support SMEs and Mid-Caps through the Covid-19 emergency



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UniCredit and the European Investment Bank (EIB) agreed to provide new resources aimed at stimulating the recovery of the economy hit by the pandemic.

They have just signed an agreement that will see the EIB allocate 200 million euros to UniCredit, to lend in turn to SMEs (companies with up to 250 employees) and mid-caps (up to 3,000 employees).

The new credit line is designed to tackle the current emergency and can be used to fund new investment projects over periods of up to five years and to cover working capital needs, in light of this extraordinary period for the Italian economy.

The funding is intended for companies all over Italy, in all production sectors: agriculture, handicrafts, industry, commerce, tourism and services.

The EIB funds can be used for projects with individual costs of up to

25 million euros, and cover 100% of costs not exceeding 12.5 million for each project.

UniCredit and the EIB have agreed to apply extraordinary eligibility criteria to this credit line for companies.

Specifically, the loans can be used to finance working capital, including salaries, taxes, pension contributions, administrative and other operating costs, as well to provide multifunctional credit lines, even for extending or renewing existing working capital financing. Only purely financial and/or property transactions are excluded.

The credit line complements the support provided by the Italian 'Liquidity Decree', meaning that the EIB funds can be combined either with the direct guarantee from the SME Guarantee Fund or from SACE (the publicly participated Italian agency for exports and internationalization), with obvious benefits when it comes to final pricing.

The new agreement between UniCredit and the EIB follows on from a series of recent deals to support SMEs, mid-caps and agricultural businesses in Italy.

In the last five years, UniCredit has channelled about 5 billion euros in EIB funding to Italian companies, financing more than 4,000 projects.

Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue: Joint Statement by President A.Vučić



On the occasion of the continuation of the EU Facilitated Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, President Aleksandar Vučić and Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti confirmed to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, that they attach the highest priority to EU integration and to continuing the work on the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue which is a key element of their

respective EU paths.

They also committed to redoubling their efforts to ensure further EU alignment in accordance with their respective obligations.

In this respect, the recently agreed documents in Washington, D.C., building on previous Dialogue-related commitments undertaken by the two parties, could provide a useful contribution to reaching a comprehensive, legally binding agreement on normalization of relations.

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