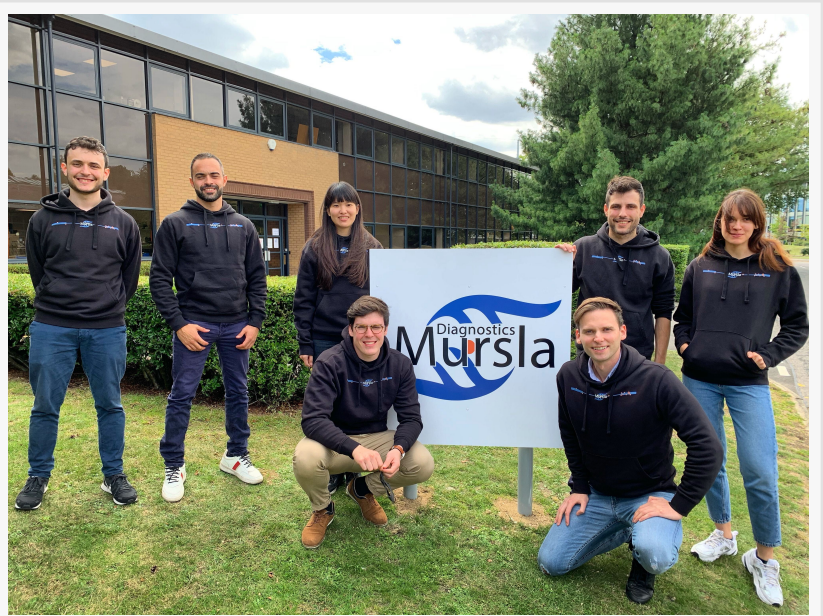


Mursla raises £0.5M funding to progress development of its exosome-based novel technology platform for cancer detection

CAMBRIDGE, UK, September 1, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Mursla, a liquid biopsy company, has raised £410K from the UK Government's Future Fund and existing investors. In addition, the organisation has secured a £40K COVID-19 grant from the Cambridgeshire Capital Grant Scheme.

The funding will enable Mursla to finalise its work on its novel exosome-based liquid biopsy platform, ExoPheno(TM), with the aim of demonstrating how the platform can detect cancer signatures in plasma from solid tumours via exosomes.



The Mursla Team outside their labs at Cambridge Science Park

Exosomes are heterogeneous vesicles naturally released by all cells during their lives, especially tumour cells, and usually carry biologically active molecules that can deliver their messages to local or distant targets.

A cancer liquid biopsy is a test undertaken on a blood sample to look for tumour information, including from nucleic acids or proteins, that is circulating in the blood. Much less invasive and heterogeneous than traditional biopsies, which require local anesthesia and often cause discomfort to the patient, this simple blood draw could routinely offer life-saving early cancer detection or help monitor tumours during and after treatments.

The liquid biopsy space has seen tremendous progress over the last five years, as evidenced by the first FDA approval for cancer liquid biopsy via nucleic acid sequencing as a companion diagnostic in August this year. However, due to its lack of sensitivity, this route failed to demonstrate game-changing early cancer detection. Mursla's novel approach could provide the solution to this problem.

Mursla has also recently relocated from its roots at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge to its own laboratory and office space at the Cambridge Science Park.

Pierre Arsène, Founder & CEO, Mursla commented: “The additional funding is a mark of confidence in our strategy from both the UK government and our existing investors in this currently challenging environment. It has allowed us to make up for lost time during lockdown and expedited our move to fully equipped lab space at Cambridge Science Park, which has been an extremely positive step forward.

“Our next goal is to find VC partners to help us scale our assays and validate our own exosome-based biomarker panel for liver cancer detection.”

As Mursla approaches significant milestones in the development of its platform, the company aims to raise its Series-A by the end of this year.



Pierre Arsène, Founder & CEO,
Mursla

Notes to Editors

About Mursla



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*Pierre Arsène, Founder & CEO,
Mursla*

Mursla is a Cambridge-based liquid biopsy company based on a novel liquid biopsy platform which traces diseases in biofluids via exosomes. Exosomes (also known as Extracellular Vesicles) are emerging biomarkers widely regarded as one of the most promising for cancer diagnostics and other diseases. Using quantum biology, nanotechnology and bioengineering, Mursla is developing its platform to detect dozens of cancer types with a single blood test.

Discover more: <https://www.mursla.com>

About the Future Fund

The Future Fund was established by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to support the UK's most innovative businesses demonstrating high growth potential and currently affected by COVID-19. The Fund provides government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5

million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors. These convertible loans may be an option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access other government business support programmes because they are either pre-revenue or pre-profit.

Find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/future-fund>

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