

PRESS RELEASE - EMBARGO UP TO 11.59 pm 22 DECEMBER 2020

EUREKA! Venture SGR

“EUREKA! FUND I - TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER” RAISES NEW CAPITAL AND HIRES DR OLIVIA NICOLETTI, PhD

(Milan, 23 December 2020). EUREKA! Venture SGR today announces the second closing of “Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer” and that Olivia Nicoletti joins Eureka! team as Investment Manager.

EUREKA! is the **first independent venture capitalist in Italy focused in deeptech** investments, i.e. in start-ups, spin offs and SMEs connected with Research Centers and Universities and which have the aim of enhancing the results of their scientific research activities on the market, promoting innovative and often frontier technologies. Innovations and technologies that can have a profound impact on people's lives, in the environment and in the society.

“Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer” is focused on investments in **Advanced Materials** and more generally in applications and technologies related to Materials Science and Engineering. The Fund invests in proof-of-concept, seed and Round A stages, also thanks to the partnership with 27 universities and scientific research centers in Italy.

Eureka! Team has closed three investments since the Fund inception just 5 months ago and now **Olivia Nicoletti, PhD**, joins the team. Bringing with her a focus on deep tech cultivated in more than 12 years spent in UK, prior to joining Eureka! Olivia was Senior Investment Associate at Angel CoFund (a £100M generalist UK VC firm with a strong angels co-investment mandate), and previously Commercialisation Manager at **Cambridge Enterprise** (the technology transfer arm of the University of Cambridge) where she worked across the Technology Transfer and the Seed Funds teams for five years. During this time she helped many academics of the University translate their research into new companies in a very broad spectrum of deep tech sectors: from quantum computing to encryption, ML, photovoltaics, light emission, all the way to medical devices. There she also helped to develop an associates training program as well as a more hands-on approach in coaching founders and founding teams. Before joining Cambridge Enterprise, Olivia was an editor and a writer at Nature Materials. Olivia holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge for her work in nano-optics and the equivalent of a M.Sc. and a B.Sc. in Physics from Università Statale di Milano.

European Investment Fund (EIF) and **CDP** are the anchor investor in Eureka! Fund I through the **ITatech** platform, created to support Technology Transfer initiatives capable of enhancing Italian scientific and technological research. Eureka! Fund I has the support of InnovFin Equity - the financial instrument developed under Horizon 2020, the European Union programme for Research and Innovation - and of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

Alongside the cornerstone investors of the first closing of Eureka! Fund (Compagnia di San Paolo, SAES Group, and UMBRA Group), **some family offices have recently joined investors of Eureka! Fund**: the investment company of an important Italian industrial family (HOFIMA, Malacalza) and the one of a European group for the protection of intellectual property, carrying the size of Eureka! Fund I to 40M Euro.

Davide Malacalza, Amministratore Delegato di HOFIMA commented "This investment naturally follows our appreciation and trust both in the management team's strategy as well as the fund's goals, being focused on materials' engineering investments and applications. As an industrial family, we care deeply for cutting edge tech and, as such, we have been for many years investors in ASG Superconductors, company that is a leader in building superconducting materials, magnets and systems for both academic research and industrial R&D."

Anna Amati, Director Institutional Relationships, commented “Eureka! grows with an extraordinary speed: we went through the SGR authorization, two Fund's closings and three investments in less than 12 months. And now we target at 50 million Euro.”

Stefano Peroncini, Chief Executive Officer EUREKA! Venture SGR, completed: "This has been a particularly intense year for Eureka!, our focus having been not only our fundraising and our first investments but also that of building a winning team. It is for this reason that I particularly cherish the arrival in our Eureka! Team of Dr Olivia Nicoletti: an experienced Technology Transfer and Venture Capital professional that will bring in her role of Investment Manager her great passion for deep tech and her international experience, matured in her 12 years spent in one of the world's centre for excellence in the impact and value creation from scientific research."

About Fondo europeo per gli Investimenti (FEI)

The European Investment Fund's (EIF) is part of the European Investment Bank group. Its central mission is to support Europe's micro, small and medium-sized businesses by helping them to access finance. EIF designs and develops both venture and growth capital, guarantees and microfinance instruments which specifically target this market segment. In this role, EIF fosters EU objectives in support of innovation, research and development, entrepreneurship, growth and employment. More info: www.eif.org

About Cassa depositi e prestiti (CDP)

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) is the National Promotional Institution that supported the Italian economy since 1850. According to the 2019-2021 Business Plan, CDP intends to activate a total of over 200 billion euro between 2019 and 2021, contributing significantly to the Country's sustainable growth. The Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Group will provide over 110 billion euro in new lending for economic growth and sustainable development in Italy, activating over 90 billion of additional lending from private investors and other local and national institutions and supranational organisations. CDP supports international cooperation and acts as a catalyst for IPE's funds in Italy. As the primary operator in social and affordable housing, CDP contributes to the growth of the Italian real estate sector and promotes urban transformation. More info: www.cdp.it

About ITAtech

ITAtech is a highly selective and ambitious investment platform that supports Italian research excellence and wants to be an "agent for change", primarily cultural, for academic institutions. The platform is an equity investment tool to promote, support, catalyse and accelerate the commercialisation of high-tech intellectual property and, more generally, the translation of research results into new business ideas. ITAtech was conceived by CDP, in collaboration with the EIF, from a belief that developing adequate instruments for financing innovation processes across all start-up creation and development phases, is a fundamental pillar for national competitiveness. Through ITAtech, CDP and EIF jointly provide up to EUR 200 m to finance selected investment vehicles dedicated to the TT in Italy. More info: http://www.eif.europa.eu/what_we_do/equity/news/2016/eif-npi-itatech.htm?lang=en

About Innovfin

InnovFin Equity is part of InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators, a generation of EU financial instruments and advisory services developed under Horizon 2020 to help innovative firms access finance more easily. "InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators" will help to inject around EUR 50 billion in investments in Research and Innovation across Europe. InnovFin Equity provides equity investments and co-investments to or alongside funds focusing on early stage financing of enterprises operating in innovative sectors covered by Horizon 2020, located or active in the EU or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries. More info: <http://www.access2finance.eu/>. The **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)** is the main pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe. It provides first loss guarantees enabling the EIB to invest in more, often riskier projects. The projects and agreements approved for financing under EFSI are expected to mobilise EUR 514 bn in investment, supporting over 1.4 million start-ups and SMEs across the EU. More info: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/jobs-growth-and-investment/investment-plan-europe-juncker-plan/european-fund-strategic-investments-efsi_en

About EUREKA! Venture SGR

EUREKA Venture SGR is an independent asset management company authorized by Bank of Italy and promoted by experienced managers in venture capital and technology transfer and META Group. "Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer" invests in proof-of-concept, spin-offs, startups and SMEs that exploits the Italian research activity in Advanced Materials. Eureka! Fund team: Anna Amati, Massimo Gentili, Salvatore Majorana, Olivia Nicoletti e Stefano Peroncini. More info: www.eurekaventure.it

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