

## **Ilasis Laser raises 4.4 M€ to democratize laser cataract surgery and finance the commercial development of Rx, its femtosecond laser surgical instrument.**

**Bordeaux, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Ilasis Laser, manufacturer of laser medical devices for ophthalmology, announces having raised 4.4 million euros via a pool of Business Angels, IRDI Capital Investment and Nouvelle Aquitaine COinvestment (NACO).**

Thanks to its innovative and patented technology, Ilasis Laser wishes to address the major challenges of ophthalmology through frugal innovation. Ilasis Laser designs, manufactures, and markets Rx, the first femtosecond laser instrument dedicated to cataract surgery.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world and the most widespread surgery with more than 30 million operations per year. The first step of this surgery is the cutting of the anterior capsule of the lens. This key step, very difficult to achieve, requires a long learning curve for surgeons. The handheld instrument Rx allows a perfectly predictable and reproducible femtosecond laser cutting to be performed, securing and simplifying the procedure.

Ilasis Laser is supported, since its creation in 2019, by the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region and BPI France as well as by a Scientific Council composed of several renowned ophthalmologists (Pr B. Cochener, Pr. A. Brézin, Pr. D. Touboul, Dr F. Lignereux) and by Pr. Gérard Mouroux, Nobel Prize in Physics, and inventor of femtosecond laser. After completing a round of 2.2 M€ in December 2021 to finance its clinical investigations and prepare for the launch of its product, ILASIS Laser raises 4.4 M€ to finance the commercial development in Europe of its Rx product and the necessary FDA approval prior to marketing in the USA.

78 patients have already been treated with femtolaser Rx during clinical investigations to validate device performance for CE marking. These trials were carried out in France by Dr Lignereux at the Clinique Sourdille Atlantique (Groupe Elsan) in Nantes. After more than 8.5M€ invested in the project, the Rx certification is now under review, with CE marking expected in autumn 2023, followed by approval by the FDA (USA) in early 2024. First sales in Europe are planned for early 2024 through the new Helix Surgical brand.

*«Ilasis Laser aims to become a major player in medical devices by applying frugal innovation to multiple problem solving. The most advanced technologies should be put at the service of the greatest number by simplifying devices and their use. We are very happy to be strongly supported by experienced Business Angels who bring us all their entrepreneurial experience and 80% of this round table, as well as by IRDI Capital Investment that has accompanied us since the beginning of this project and by NACO that marks the support of the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region for our adventure»* says **François Salin, President of Ilasis Laser.**

**Philippe du Mesnil** a private investor who is a significant participant in this transaction, notes that *«this project brings together all the conditions to be a great regional success for Nouvelle Aquitaine: the expertise and experience of a local leader, a promising scientific environment in Optics in Bordeaux, and strong regional financial support with the intervention of a Regional Investor alongside Bordeaux Business Angels».*

**Geneviève Blanc**, Investment Director at IRDI Capital Investissement *« We are particularly pleased with this investment through the Irdinov 2 fund which supports an innovation that brings a real benefit for a very common act but that requires a real dexterity. It is a great satisfaction to complete this operation which gives this beautiful team the means necessary for the development of this first product».*

**Jean-Pierre Renaudin**, president of NACo Fund (Nouvelle-Aquitaine Co-investissement) *« We are very pleased that the funding of the European Union and Conseil Régional de Nouvelle-Aquitaine can, through the NACO fund, participate in the development of Ilasis Laser which is at the crossroads of several themes dear to the Nouvelle Aquitaine region: photonics, health and frugality. With 20 million blind people worldwide due to cataracts, this disease is a real societal issue and the wise use of the most advanced technologies to help solve this health problem will be a great regional success.»*

### **About ILASIS Laser**

Founded in 2019 by François Salin, Florent Deloison, Pierre Deslandes et Bertrand Jouannaud, Ilasis Laser is a creator of frugal laser solutions for ophthalmology. Under the brand Helix Surgical, Ilasis Laser designs and manufactures Rx, the first femtosecond laser instrument dedicated to capsulotomy during cataract surgery. The company is based in Pessac and employs 18 people. Ilasis Laser has already raised 2.2 M€ in February 2022 to finance its clinical investigations and prepare for the marketing of its product Rx. More information on: [www.ilasis.com](http://www.ilasis.com) and [www.helixsurgical.com](http://www.helixsurgical.com).

### **About IRDI Capital Investissement**

Based in Toulouse, Montpellier and Bordeaux, IRDI Capital Investment has over 40 years of investment experience at all stages of development (venture capital and transfer capital) of companies in the South-West of France. With a team of 25 people, it manages more than 420M€ through several funds including IRDINOV 2.

IRDINOV 2 is a technology seed fund supported by the Fonds National d'Amorçage (FNA).

### **About NACO**

**NACO**, Nouvelle-Aquitaine CO-investissement -- Created at the initiative of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, **NACO** is a Regional Co-Investment financial facility dedicated to supporting all Nouvelle-Aquitaine businesses that are engaged in economic change, social and ecological,

which strengthen their capacity to face new challenges and contribute to the revitalization of the regional ecosystem for future generations. **NACO** operates in all sectors of the economy and whatever the stage of development of the company: seed, development, conquer new markets and transfer of business. <https://www.naco-invest.fr/>

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