

Pristem: CHF 14 million raised to help make digital radiology more accessible

Medical equipment maker Pristem SA has just closed a CHF 14 million financing round. The aim is to put its innovative medical imaging solution into large-scale production and roll it out internationally, in order to address a key global health issue.

Pristem, a start-up and spin-off from EPFL's EssentialTech program, will industrialize a new radiology solution based on advanced technologies that have been developed in Switzerland, and are protected by several patents. The solution's main aim is to make radiology more accessible, both technically and financially. According to the World Health Organization, two thirds of the world's population still have no access to this vital diagnostic technology. Meanwhile, countries that are already well equipped with radiology systems have seen costs rise to very high levels and need to bring healthcare costs in general under control. The funds raised by Pristem will enable it to take the crucial step of starting industrialization and production of its prototype. Its "all-in-one" system - which will be commercialized within 2 years - will be high-tech, user-friendly, economical and highly robust, making leading-edge radiology accessible even in remote areas and difficult environments, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

The product of a long-term scientific collaboration

Pristem's solution is the result of a collaboration started in 2012, involving prestigious research centers¹ (EPFL, HES-SO, CHUV, PSI and Swiss TPH) under the leadership of EPFL's EssentialTech program.

International fund-raising round

The fund-raising, supported by Glosya Sàrl, brought in CHF 14 million from two Swiss investors – including the lead investor that will contribute extensive experience in the medical service sector – and two African investors, one of which runs a major medical imaging group providing valuable insights into the final customer needs.

Blaise Mentha from Privegest, the lead investor, said: "We decided to invest in Pristem and support its development because of its comprehensive and disruptive approach. It is similar to building an 'advanced all-terrain vehicle', i.e. a robust, cost-effective and capable of working effectively in both modern cities and the most remote locations."

Pristem was set up by experienced engineers and business developers and is now recruiting health informatics and industrial engineering specialists in Switzerland.

¹ Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)

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Boiler Plates:

Pristem SA

Pristem addresses global markets with innovative, high-quality and cost-effective medical imaging systems, helping ensure universal and sustainable access to the latest digital health technologies and services.

Website: www.pristem.com

EssentialTech

EssentialTech is based at EPFL's Cooperation and Development Center. It aims to mobilize scientific research and technological innovation to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. The cornerstone of EssentialTech's approach is the joint development of technology alongside a sustainable business model.

Website: <https://cooperation.epfl.ch/essential-en>

Glosya

Glosya specializes in providing operational and strategic support to Swiss companies wanting to expand into Africa. Glosya also has a dedicated fundraising unit that supports projects and companies intending to market their products in emerging markets.

Website: <https://glosya.com>