

Metemis and Prestodiag: new successes for Genopole companies with the Innovation 2030 Worldwide Innovation Challenge

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And that makes seven for Genopole! Following in the footsteps of Abolis Biotechnologies, Biométhodes, Osseomatrix, Magpie Polymers and Ynsect, two more Genopole companies, Metemis and Prestodiag, have become laureates of the Innovation 2030 Worldwide Innovation Challenge, a French initiative to support innovative companies in sectors with high economic potential. Representatives of the seven Genopole-accredited companies were welcomed to the Elysée Palace by President of France François Hollande on Wednesday, July 23rd, with the other Challenge laureates, 110 in all.

Metemis sensors: a home blood-workup laboratory

Metemis conceives and manufactures chemical concentration sensors. Already a prize winner in the 2013 Genopole competition for its technologies in environmental and agronomic sciences, Metemis is now proposing an extremely innovative project in personalized medicine.

As explained by the company's CEO Julien Fils, Metemis is looking to integrate concentration sensors in wearable artificial kidneys and warning systems to measure phenylalanine in patients with phenylketonuria (called PKU), a genetic disorder characterized by dysfunctional phenylalanine hydroxylase, an enzyme needed to metabolize phenylalanine. Patients with PKU must follow an extremely strict diet to avoid serious medical problems caused by the disease.

Metemis's technology has the potential to improve the quality of treatment and the quality of life of patients and reduce the frequency of hospitalization.

"This prize has arrived at exactly the right moment", emphasizes Fils. *"We will be able to start manufacturing a prototype and hire two people in the near future. Our project is part of a call for bids made by the American PKU patient association and we are among the five remaining candidates, from a field of 640 at the start. This Innovation 2030 prize improves our international image, which in turn reassures our partners and investors for upcoming developments. We are also working on a universal sensor capable of analyzing concentrations of proteins, amino acids, sugars, and other elements from a simple blood sample."*



At the Elysée Palace, July 23rd. From left to right: Julien Fils, CEO of Metemis, Romain Fouache, Vice-President of Operations of Biométhodes, Cyrille Pauthenier of Abolis and Jean-Gabriel Levon, Director General of Ynsect.

Prestodiag launches the DRUID project to improve the treatment of urinary infections

Prestodiag is having a festive month: In early July, the company won the Creation-Development Prize in the 16th National Competition for the Creation of Innovative Technology Companies (now i-Lab) of the French Ministry of Research, and now in late July it has been recognized again, this time by the Innovation 2030 Challenge in the Personalized Medicine category.

Prestodiag's new project, DRUID (Direct & Rapid Urinary Infection Diagnosis), will considerably advance the detection of bacteria in urine, notably by its unprecedented rapidity. "*DRUID will reduce the time needed for antibiotic susceptibility testing from two days with current technologies to only a few hours*", explains Prestodiag President Thibaut Mercey.

Prestodiag's focus on administering the right antibiotic to the right patient places the company clearly in the field of personalized medicine. DRUID will lead to a reduction in the use of large-spectrum antibiotics and thus slow the development of antibiotic resistance due to their current over-prescription.

"This new source of support reinforces the validity of our technology for bacterial detection," adds Mercey. "DRUID will bring a new method that goes further than the simple determination of resistance, because it also indicates the treatment to prescribe for a specific patient. This prize, added to that of i-Lab 2014, is a veritable springboard toward the medical applications market".



Thibaut Mercey, president of Prestodiag, second row, second from left,

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About Genopole. Genopole is the leading French biopark dedicated to research in genetics and biotechnologies for healthcare and the environment. Genopole unites 19 research laboratories, 80 biotech companies and 21 technical platforms as well as university training programs (Évry-Val-d'Essonne University). Its objectives are to favor the development of research in genomics, post-genomics and other related fields, assure the transfer of resulting technology to the industrial sector, establish academic-level training programs for these fields, and finally to create and support biotech companies. Genopole is funded mainly by the Ile-de-France Regional Council (30%), the Essonne Department Council (26.5%) and the French State (15.7%). www.genopole.fr