UK company offers portable diagnostics platform for rapid infectious disease testing and seeks commercial, licensing, investment, and R&D partners.

Summary

Profile type	Company's country	POD reference
Technology offer	**United Kingdom**	**TOGB20250725009**
Profile status	**Type of partnership**	**Targeted countries**
PUBLISHED	**Commercial agreement with technical assistance** **Investment agreement** **Research and development cooperation agreement**	**• World**
Contact Person	**Term of validity**	**Last update**
Enrico FRANZIN	**25 Jul 2025** **25 Jul 2026**	**25 Jul 2025**

General Information

Short summary

UK SME with a growing global presence has developed a low-cost, portable plasmonic PCR platform for rapid infectious disease detection. Direct sample input enables safe, on-site testing. With WHO procurement interest and active deployments, the company seeks commercial, licensing, and investment partners, and is open to research and regulatory collaboration in animal health and food diagnostics.

Full description

This UK-based diagnostics SME, a spin-out from the University of Cambridge, has developed a compact, point-of-care testing platform for infectious diseases. Originally a two-person startup, the company has grown to a team of 11 and secured over £1.5 million in public grant funding, including support from the UK's Engineering Biology programme. Their mission is to expand access to rapid, accurate diagnostics in both global and regulated markets.

Their platform combines portability with clinical-level performance, enabling timely diagnostics outside of traditional lab settings. Devices would be provided capital-free under a reagent-rental model for both small and large users alike, with scalable per-test revenues through disposable assay kits. These kits support affordable, on-site testing both in resource-limited settings and in highly regulated clinical environments.

The platform includes an intuitive app interface that guides users from symptoms to treatment recommendations in minutes tailored to local treatment options, enabling faster decision-making and personalised care – particularly valuable in resource-limited settings and frontline healthcare delivery.

The company's technology has already gained traction globally and has been procured by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for benchmarking purposes. Multiple clinical validation studies have been conducted with hospitals and diagnostic centres, including AIIMS New Delhi and Dr Dang's Lab. Promising early data shows sensitivity and specificity of 95% and 98.7% for UTIs in urine, respectively. The SME is now seeking to accelerate commercialisation, scale manufacturing, and expand into adjacent sectors such as animal diagnostics and food safety testing.

To achieve this, the company is looking for international partners in four key areas:

- Commercial/distribution partnerships to expand product reach in healthcare or veterinary/food testing markets
- Licensing or co-development partners to adapt the core platform for animal health or foodborne pathogen detection
- Strategic investors (particularly in Europe and the UK) to support an active seed funding round
- Clinical, research or regulatory collaborators to help trial, validate, or integrate the technology into healthcare systems

The desired outcome of these partnerships is to fast-track international adoption of the platform and co-develop new applications that meet global health, animal health, or food safety needs. The company envisions flexible cooperation models – from direct sales and licensing to co-funded R&D – depending on partner capabilities and market focus.

Advantages and innovations

- Cost-effective alternative to traditional lab-based diagnostics, with devices provided capital-free following a reagent-rental model and low-cost assays enabling sustainable per-test revenue models
- Portable and rapid: delivers reliable results for both pathogen identity and antibiotic resistance in minutes, ideal for both field deployment and decentralised clinical use
- End-to-end solution: integrates diagnostics with a user-friendly app that can support treatment decision-making, reducing patient wait times and enabling personalised care pathways
- Global field validation: technology already procured by WHO and deployed in diverse markets
- Adaptable platform: can be customised for use in animal diagnostics and food safety, offering clear cross-sector potential
- Strong IP and funding foundation: developed by a UK SME spun out of Cambridge University and backed by £1.5M in competitive UK grants (including Engineering Biology)
- Competitive edge: uniquely positioned to meet growing demand for low-cost, high-accuracy diagnostics in both regulated and underserved markets, where many competitors are either too expensive or limited to lab infrastructure

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Technical specification or expertise sought

The UK SME is seeking partners with specific technical and domain expertise depending on the type of collaboration:

Commercial/Distribution Partners:
- Experience in medical device or diagnostics distribution, especially in regulated healthcare or public health markets
- Knowledge of local regulatory and procurement requirements for diagnostic technologies
- Capacity to support technical onboarding or end-user training (with assistance from the UK SME)

Research and Clinical Partners:
- Expertise in infectious disease diagnostics, animal health, or food safety testing
- Ability to conduct clinical validation, field trials, or comparative testing of diagnostic platforms
- Access to relevant test environments (e.g. hospitals, veterinary clinics, food testing labs)
- Familiarity with CE/IVDR, ISO 13485, or related quality and regulatory frameworks would be beneficial

Investors / Strategic Partners:
- Prior investment experience in medtech, healthtech, or engineering biology sectors preferable.
- Understanding of scale-up challenges for diagnostic technologies, including supply chain and manufacturing
- Ability to support internationalisation through networks, strategic advice, or board-level expertise

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Stage of development

Already on the market

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

IPR Status

IPR granted

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The UK company is seeking multiple types of international partners:
- Commercial/Distribution Partners: Ideally, these would be medical device distributors, diagnostic solution providers, or healthcare suppliers with established access to clinical, public health, or veterinary markets. They also seek partners interested in pioneering innovative decentralised diagnostic testing and developing new markets, such as at-home testing solutions. Partners should be able to support product registration (where needed), facilitate on-the-ground training (with assistance from the UK company), and scale local sales through existing networks
- Research or Clinical Partners: The company welcomes collaboration with hospitals, research institutes, veterinary labs, or food testing organisations to co-develop and validate new assay applications (e.g. animal diagnostics, foodborne pathogens). Partners would contribute domain expertise, testing environments, or regulatory insights to help adapt and refine the platform for sector-specific needs
- Investors: Strategic or seed-stage investors with experience in healthtech, diagnostics, or global healthcare innovation. The ideal investor would provide not only funding but also strategic guidance and connections to scale across Europe or globally. UK or EU-based investors are preferred due to regulatory and IP considerations

The UK SME is open to flexible, partner-led models – including licensing, joint development, and co-promotion – depending on the sector, geography, and partner capabilities.

Type of partnership

Commercial agreement with technical assistance

Investment agreement

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 11-49**
- **SME <=10**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **R&D Institution**
- **Big company**

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **06002008 - Microbiology**
- **08002001 - Detection and Analysis methods**
- **06001018 - Virus, Virology/Antibiotics/Bacteriology**
- **06001005 - Diagnostics, Diagnosis**
- **06002002 - Cellular and Molecular Biology**

Market keywords

- **05001007 - Other diagnostic**
- **04010 - Microbiology**
- **04006 - Cellular and Molecular Biology**
- **05001005 - Molecular diagnosis**
- **05009003 - Animal health**

Targeted countries

- **World**

Sector groups involved