

SILIOS Technologies secures €1,3 Million in first round of financing to develop an innovative planar technology for Integrated Optics

Rousset, FRANCE, July 1st, 2003 - SILIOS Technologies, which recently spun off from Ion Beam Services (IBS) to develop an innovative planar technology for Integrated Optics, today announces that it has secured €1,3 million in a first round financing from Vizille Capital Innovation, TechFund Capital Europe, Primavera and 123 Multinova.

The proceeds will be used to further develop its patented I3O® (Ion Implanted Integrated Optics) technology and to market a new generation of passive optical integrated components for telecommunication.

“The cutting-edge technology I3O® enables to design and manufacture Planar Lightwave Circuits (PLC) that will know to match the new requirements of optical networks: low cost, miniaturisation, high capability of integration.” explains Laurent Roux, CEO of SILIOS.

In spite of the funding slowdown in high tech, investors' vote of confidence in SILIOS team relies on a promising business plan. According to Alain Benisty, General Manager of Vizille Capital Innovation, “SILIOS Technologies is on the right track to become, 2 years from now, a serious player in the manufacturing of passive optical components. Indeed this start-up has developed a promising technology with limited spending. Moreover, assets such as being closed to IBS and the high quality of the technical team directed by an industrial manager, should ensure its success as soon as the market recover”.

Jean-Michel Barbier, Managing Partner of TechFund Capital Europe, adds: “SILIOS Technologies is developing a disruptive technology that we expect will have a solid impact on its market. Moreover, SILIOS team gathers a unique technical experience, from R&D to industrialisation. That is the reason why we committed to the project, in spite of the depressed market conditions today. Our mission as an early stage investor, in difficult times as ever, is to identify the next upcoming technologies with great market and growth potential”.

In addition to the optical networks market, I3O® advantages like varying refractive index, mode field management and easy coupling make it also ideal for waveguides used in datacom, biophonic and sensor applications.

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About SILIOS Technologies:

SILIOS Technologies designs and manufactures passive optical integrated components. Its proprietary technology I3O® enables to produce Planar Lightwave Circuits with advantages like: low cost, miniaturisation and high integration capabilities. It currently develops splitters, mode converters and WDM couplers but also passive optical platforms for modules manufacturers.

SILIOS focuses on optical networks, sensors and datacom markets. It also proposes its expertise in design, manufacturing and test for optical systems addressing a wide range of applications: Diffractive Optical Elements, microarrays, silicon microsystems...

SILIOS Technologies was founded in July 2001 by Laurent Roux, PhD in Physics who founded IBS, Michel-Jean Dupré, Business Angel who founded Rhone-Siltec and Epitech and Stéphane Tisserand, PhD in Physics, specialist in integrated Optics and CTO of SILIOS. It has a seven people staff today and forecasts to recruit technical and commercial people in 2004.

For more information, check out the website: www.silios.com or stop by and see SILIOS team at ECOOC (Rimini-Italy) in September from 22 to 24.

About IBS :

IBS is a European leader in ion implantation. Since its creation in 1987, it has developed a complete range of products and services for semiconductors industry: customised ion implantation, equipment engineering and maintenance, microtechnology, fabrication of components, surface treatment... It employs 40 people in Rousset (France) and 10 people in its Scottish subsidiary IBS UK (Bathgate)

www.ion-beam-services.com

About VCI:

Founded at the end of 2002, Vizille Capital Innovation is a venture capital fund, subsidiary of Banque De Vizille (Lyonnaise de Banque-CIC Group). Its objective consists in investing €40 millions over 5 years in promising high tech companies, in the fields of information technology, electronics and telecommunications, but also in life sciences, new material or environment. The investment goes to 0.5 to 3 M€ and may occur at the different stages of the life cycle of the targeted company: seed, venture or development.

www.banquedevizille.fr

About TechFund Capital Europe:

TechFund Capital Europe is a venture capital firm located in Paris and focusing on early stage investments in information technology companies (multimedia, networks and communications, energy and environment). It leverages network of strategic partners (Thomson, Thales Group, EDF...) and proactively assists its portfolio companies to accelerate the development. TechFund Capital Europe, a brother fund to California based TechFund Capital, is located in Paris and has a pan European focus, in which the French and German markets are playing a prominent role.

www.TechFundCapitalEurope.com

About Primavera:

Primavera is a French regional venture capital fund dedicated to investments in innovative companies of all technological sectors (information and communication, life sciences, energy, environment...) and located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. It invests at an early stage of the projects and supports companies creation and development.

www.primaveris.fr

About 123 Multinova:

123 Multinova is the first multi-managers fund. Created by French management company 123 Venture, it gives a unique access to five seasoned managers (TechFund Capital Europe, ACE Management, S&BD, La Financière de l'Echiquier and Ofivalmo) instead of one for most of FCPI.

www.123venture.com

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