



Uniseed Completes 60th Start-Up Investment from Partner Research Organisations

6 July 2021. Last week Uniseed announced its investment in Currus Biologics, a Melbourne-based cancer biotech start-up working to improve the success of CAR-T cell therapies against solid tumours, representing the 60th investment completed by the Uniseed fund since it was formed in late 2000.

Uniseed is Australia's longest running early-stage commercialisation fund that makes investments in research emanating from five of Australia's leading research organisations – The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales, The University of Melbourne and the CSIRO. The fund facilitates the commercialisation of its research partners' most promising intellectual property and secures targeted investment in resulting products and technologies.

A number of these start-ups have gone on to take products to market, with many being sold to major multinationals.

In the deep technology space, TenasiTech's plastic additive was sold to RTP Co in 2020, Smart Sparrow's adaptive e-learning platform was sold to Pearson in 2020, Fultec's surge protection semiconductor was sold to Bourns Semiconductor Inc in 2008 and Vintela's IT security software was sold to Quest Software in 2005, which was later acquired by Dell.

High profile biotechnology deals include Fibrotech's sale to Shire plc in 2014, Spinifex' sale to Novartis in 2015, Hatchtech's sale to Dr Reddy's Laboratories in 2015 and Exonate's strategic collaboration with Janssen (a J&J company) in 2020.

Four of these deals were recognised as the Australian Venture Capital Association's Best Early-Stage Deal of the Year (Vintela 2005, Fibrotech 2014, Spinifex 2015 & Hatchtech 2016).

In 2018, Uniseed was recognised as one of the top 5 university venture funds worldwide (Global University Venturing Powerlist 100).

In its current portfolio, a number of companies have taken products to market and are at early sales, such as Forcite's smart motor cycle helmet, Agerris agricultural robots, Morse Micro's WiFi HaLow chip for IoT, Aurtra's IoT for power asset monitoring, Cardihab's remote cardiac rehabilitation and Wildlife Drones wildlife tracking drone enabled software.

BT Imaging is an established manufacturer and supplier of quality control imaging equipment for photovoltaic cells and modules, with over 150 tools and modules sold and cumulative sales above \$50 million.

Uniseed companies have taken drugs from discovery to the market, with Hatchtech gaining FDA approval for its human head lice treatment in 2020. A number of companies in the current portfolio are in human clinical trials including Certa Therapeutics (kidney disease), Exonate (macular degeneration), OccuRx (diabetic retinopathy) and Ena Respiratory (respiratory infections).

All of this would not have been possible without the ongoing support of Uniseed's partner research organisations and the technology transfer offices and staff within them.

