



## P R E S S   R E L A S E

### **HEMARINA awarded the Start-Up of the Year Prize during the Western Region EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 ceremony.**

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**Morlaix (France), 26 September 2018 – As part of the 26th Annual EY Entrepreneur of the Year prizes, EY awarded the regional Start-Up of the Year 2018 Prize to Franck Zal, founder and CEO of Hemarina, on 25 September at the Mediacampus in Nantes. Each year, the Entrepreneur of the Year Prize is awarded in seven major regions. “This prize recognises committed women and men who innovate and create value and jobs in their region” – Stanislas de Gastines, EY Partner, Head of the Entrepreneur of the Year Prize for the western region of France.**

#### **▪ Hemarina: Start-Up of the Year 2018 - Western Region of France**

The Start-Up of the Year Prize recognises an executive of a “high growth potential” start-up who has demonstrated innovation in his/her marketplace and is a driver of growth.

During the ceremony, nine prizes were awarded to entrepreneurs in the western region of France. The winner of the Start-Up of the Year Prize, Frank Zal, will also compete for the national prize in his category during a ceremony to be held on 18 October at the Salle Pleyel in Paris.

#### **▪ The incredible adventure of Franck Zal – Founder and CEO of Hemarina**

This CNRS Bronze Medal researcher, who holds a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, focused his research on the haemoglobin of the sand worm and its unique oxygen-carrying properties. After working for fifteen years at a publicly funded research laboratory, Franck Zal created Hemarina in 2007 out of a desire to develop a unique technological platform to address unmet medical needs tied to the lack of oxygen, namely, the medical-grade additive HEMO<sub>2</sub>life®.

A breakthrough in the field of oxygen carriers, HEMO<sub>2</sub>life® is an additive for organ preservation solutions, which has been investigated with positive results for the kidney in a clinical trial conducted at six French teaching hospitals: Brest, Limoges, Lyon, Paris, Poitiers and Tours. (To find out more, click [here](#)).

Convinced of the potential of HEMO<sub>2</sub>life® and even before its introduction to the market, Professor Laurent Lantieri, Head of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital, used this ground-breaking preservation technology to perform a surgical feat: the second full face transplant on the same patient, a world first!

*“I am delighted to receive this prize, which recognises what we have achieved in our 11 years of existence. I would like to thank our shareholders and, in particular, our employees, who work day in and day out to develop innovative solutions addressing unmet medical needs and introduce them to the market. Hemarina remains true to its primary purpose of “saving lives”,” concludes Franck Zal.*



### **About Hemarina**

Hemarina is a biotechnology company founded in 2007 and headquartered in Morlaix, Finistère, France. The company specializes in the development of universal oxygen carriers derived from marine invertebrates. Hemarina has a technical & commercial affiliate in Boston (Hemarina, Inc.) and a production subsidiary for its raw materials located on the island of Noirmoutier (France), as well as offices in Paris.

Hemarina is developing several products for medical and industrial applications, including:

- An additive to organ preservation solutions: HEMO<sub>2</sub>life®
- A therapeutic oxygen carrier: HEMOXYCarrier®
- An oxygenating dressing: HEMHealing®
- An input for industrial bioproduction: HEMOXCell®/HEMBoost®

For more information, visit our website: [www.hemarina.com](http://www.hemarina.com)

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