



## PRESS RELEASE

### HEMARINA named National Start-Up of the Year by EY

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Morlaix (France), 19 October 2018 – EY handed the award for National Start-Up of the Year to Hemarina and its President and CEO, Franck Zal, at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards at the Salle Pleyel Hall in Paris on 18 October 2018. Hemarina notably developed a major innovation in the transplant field: HEMO<sub>2</sub>life<sup>®</sup>, an additive used in organ preservation solutions, derived from the hemoglobin of the “Arenicola marina” worm, which improves transplant organ preservation.

#### ▪ A breath of fresh air for the transplant field

After 15 years of basic research at a public research lab, Franck Zal founded Hemarina and developed a therapeutic oxygen carrier, M101, derived from extracellular hemoglobin drawn from the *Arenicola marina* worm, capable of storing 40 times more oxygen than human hemoglobin. The primary application of M101 is HEMO<sub>2</sub>life<sup>®</sup>, an additive to transplant preservation solutions. Transplant organ preservation is currently limited to a few hours, after which the organ loses its metabolic function and intrinsic quality. This rapid deterioration is one of the main reasons that transplants are rejected. Adding HEMO<sub>2</sub>life<sup>®</sup> to organ preservation solutions improves the oxygenation of transplant organs and, as demonstrated in a clinical trial conducted in France on the kidney from 2016 to 2018, also improves the recovery of renal function.

In addition to its use in human kidney transplantation, this technology was recently used on an exceptional basis in the second full face transplant on the same patient, performed by Dr. Laurent Lantieri, Head of the Plastic, Reconstructive and Elective Surgery Department at Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou. Dr. Lantieri had this to say: “HEMO<sub>2</sub>life<sup>®</sup> is an innovation, a medical revolution and the future of transplantation. I will never perform another transplant without this product.”

The product will be taken to market once EC certification is obtained in 2019.

#### ▪ Dedication to research and a promising future

HEMO<sub>2</sub>life<sup>®</sup> is the result of true dedication to research by Franck Zal. In addition to organ and tissue transplants, Hemarina is working to develop its product pipeline via its unique technological platform, which uses the properties of its naturally-derived therapeutic oxygen carrier in the healing of injuries and emergency medicine.

The National Start-Up of the Year Award recognises the spirit of innovation and vision embodied by Hemarina. It underscores Franck Zal’s drive to create value: “I am very proud of this award, which acknowledges years of effort and research. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank EY for this Award which is the crowning achievement of a year filled with success, made possible by the support of our shareholders and employees working each and every day to accomplish our goals.”



### **About Hemarina**

Hemarina is a company founded in 2007 and headquartered in Morlaix, Finistère, France. The company specialises in the development of universal therapeutic 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, 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)

**For further information. please contact:**



Jenna Driff  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 56 88 11 21  
E-mail: [jdriff@actifin.fr](mailto:jdriff@actifin.fr)