

PRESS RELEASE

INTESA SANPAOLO ACQUIRES A STAKE IN MATERIAS, AN ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

- **The transaction was finalised by underwriting a reserved capital increase of €1.75 million, or 12.87% of the total corporate stock.**
- **Materias has committed to using the funds from the operation to implement its 2021-2025 Business Plan.**
- **Alberto Dal Poz, Comec Founder and CEO, Fondaco Sgr Chairman and former Federmeccanica Chairman has been appointed Board Member of Materias, representing Intesa Sanpaolo.**
- **Flavio Gianetti: *“The acquisition of a stake in the company’s capital falls within the guidelines of our 2018-2021 Business Plan, and will help strengthen our commitment to promoting scientific research and encouraging the growth of the national innovation ecosystem, in synergy with the Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center”.***
- **Luigi Nicolais: *“Materias allows the brightest ideas and the most solid projects to turn into business for the benefit of science, society and its shareholders”.***

Milan/Naples, 15 July 2021 - **Intesa Sanpaolo** has acquired a stake in **Materias**, an innovative startup set up in Naples in 2016 with the aim of supporting the world of research and allowing the most promising technologies to overcome the often long and arduous path that, starting from the design phase, eventually leads to the creation, use and marketing of a product or service.

Intesa Sanpaolo finalised the transaction by underwriting a reserved capital increase of €1.75 million, or 12.87% of the total corporate stock. In addition, the Bank subscribed a participative financial instrument convertible in 2024 for an additional share of 1.57%, against an investment of €250,000.

Materias has committed to using the funds from the operation to implement its 2021-2025 Business Plan, which provides for significant revenue growth, thanks, first and foremost, to an increase of royalties and licensing-out resulting from

agreements recently entered into or being finalised with certain industrial companies.

Materias works in partnership with leading Italian universities as an incubator of new technologies, and more in particular, in the advanced materials sector. To help the best ideas become reality, the company brings together research and industry, develops innovative solutions and gives life to new science-based companies. So far, it has evaluated more than 1,000 innovative technologies, selecting 15 which, in the acceleration phase, have developed into as many projects for civil engineering, biomedical, agri-food and industrial processes, generating more than 50 national and international patent applications. Two of the accelerated technologies have also given birth to startups **Etesias** and **Sanidrink**, which, respectively, deal with 3D printing of concrete structures and innovative water bottles fitted with antimicrobial straws for the sanitation of liquids and beverages.

Materias is chaired by **Luigi Nicolais**, former Minister and former President of the CNR, and led by its Founder and CEO **Caterina Meglio**; important national and international companies, such as **Dompé Holdings**, **Ibsa Farmaceutici Italia**, **Mpa Development** and **We** participate in the corporate structure.

Alberto Dal Poz, Comec Founder and CEO, Fondaco Sgr Chairman and former Federmeccanica Chairman, has been appointed Board Member of **Materias**, representing **Intesa Sanpaolo**.

*“In selecting the most promising innovative projects, Materias pays the utmost attention to ESG issues and to the circular economy, to include an analysis of any potential environmental and social impacts of the technologies considered”, says **Flavio Gianetti**, Head of Mergers & Acquisitions at **Intesa Sanpaolo**. “The acquisition of a stake in the company’s capital falls within the guidelines of our 2018-2021 Business Plan, and will help strengthen our commitment to promoting scientific research and encouraging the growth of the national innovation ecosystem, in synergy with the Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center”.*

*“The great potential of Materias rests on a structured relationship with the world of Academia and research, which, in Italy, is particularly rich and fruitful” – said **Luigi Nicolais**, **Materias** Chairman. “By staying ahead of its Death Valley curve, Materias allows the brightest ideas and the most solid projects to turn into business for the benefit of science, society and its shareholders”.*

Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading Bank in Italy and one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe. It offers commercial, corporate investment banking, asset management and insurance services. The Intesa

Sanpaolo Group has approximately 13.5 million customers in Italy who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels and 7.1 million customers abroad with subsidiaries operating in commercial banking in 12 countries in Central Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern and North African areas and an international network of specialists in support of corporate customers across 25 countries. Intesa Sanpaolo is recognized as one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver for growth, for the benefit of both society and the economy. As regards the environment, the Group has set up a 6-billion-euro fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of 1.5 billion euro for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by the Bank or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the Bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples, Vicenza and soon Turin.

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Media Relations

Intesa Sanpaolo

Corporate & Investment Banking and Governance Areas
stampa@intesasanpaolo.com
www.intesasanpaolo.com/it/news

Materias

Materias is an innovative startup that operates in the field of advanced materials within the technology hub of San Giovanni a Teduccio (Naples). Born in 2016 from an insight of the former minister and president of the CNR, Luigi Nicolais, with the aim of supporting Italian researchers, and their ideas, along the path that leads from the laboratory to the market. A challenge faced by a young team, whose average age is under 40 and with 75% women, led by CEO Caterina Meglio. Enabling the most promising technologies to overcome the so-called "Valley of Death", through the involvement of public or private investors, and connecting them with industrial corporations is the company's main challenge. This is a project in which the country's largest bank, Intesa Sanpaolo, and two large science-based companies, Dompé Holdings and IBSA Farmaceutici, together with MPA Development Limited and We Srl, have believed. Its operating model is based on three main assets: scouting, InCoMing (Incubation, Co-working and Merging) and acceleration. In just over four years, the innovative startup chaired by Professor Nicolais has reviewed over a thousand ideas and focused on 50 patents. A know-how and expertise that recently earned it the appointment as advisor by the Bank of Italy for the fintech hub Milano Hub.

Media relations

Denaro Progetti, deprogetti@gmail.com.