

PRESS RELEASE

SolidWorld Group acquires the patent for “Electrospider”, the 3D bioprinter that replicates human tissue, from the University of Pisa

Treviso, 12 September, 2022 - The SolidWorld Group S.p.A. (ticker S3D, hereafter referred to as “the Company”) parent of a leading digital technologies, 3D printing and additive manufacturing Group, announces that Bio3DPrinting S.r.l., the company recently born from the collaboration between the Company and the Biofabrication Group of the Research Center “E.Piaggio” of the University of Pisa, controlled by BIO3DModel S.r.l., has acquired from the University of Pisa the patent for “Electrospider”, the human tissue 3D bioprinter which represents a historic step in the evolution of regenerative medicine (either for organs and tissue), in pharmaceutical and cosmetic research and in the drug and cosmetic testing and manufacturing processes.

Electrospider is the result of a synergistic collaboration between the worlds of research, academia and industry, including the SolidWorld Group - a group of leading companies in the field of 3D technologies for the entire enterprise digital process - on the one hand, the Biofabrication Group of the University of Pisa’s on the other, through the E. Piaggio research center directed by Professor Giovanni Vozzi, professor of Bioengineering and director of the Biofabrication Lab.

Electrospider enables the recreation of human-compatible biological tissue by printing innovative hydrogels containing cells from the subject. In a single printing solution, it can recreate complex structures with cellular combinations that are heterogeneous both in terms of density and size, thereby replicating the complexity of human tissue. The range of applications is vast. In the biomedical sector, the long-term objective is to reconstruct organs and tissue for transplantation using cells from the patient or from blood relations, reducing time spent in hospital and the risk that the transplant is rejected, and eliminating the waiting times associated with the search for a compatible donor. Electrospider is currently able to create smaller tissues that allow testing of the treatments that the patient will later undergo, particularly in the field of oncology. For pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, the recreation of tissue allows for the testing of drugs, creams and products, ensuring that they are safe for human use and reducing environmental impacts (animal experimentation). One final potential application comes in the fashion sector: taking a biopsy of a bovine animal, for example, would allow leather products to be created without the need to kill the animal.

The bioprinters sector is experiencing a moment of exponential growth and expansion. Grand View Research has estimated that the global business volume for 3D bioprinting will be worth USD 4.4 billion by 2028 and forecasts an annual growth rate of 15.8 percent in approximately seven years. This is partly a result of the COVID-19 epidemic and the growing demand for drug trials that has followed it.

The acquisition of the international patent (which will be valid in Europe, the United States and China) forms part of the growth and development strategy announced by the Group when it listed on the Euronext Growth Milan stock market on July 7. The strategy sees SolidWorld focus in particular on reinforcing its position in the biomedical sector and on the acquisition of further expertise in the fields of hardware and software production for Industry 4.0, as well as in the development of augmented reality technology.

“The acquisition of this important patent is testament to SolidWorld’s ability to swiftly anticipate changes in the market and to penetrate sectors with huge growth and development potential, thanks to unique expertise that is the result of many years of experience.” - **Roberto Rizzo, SolidWorld GROUP founder and Chairperson**. “We will now work to refine the laboratory prototype and turn it into a commercial product that is available on the market, ensuring that the technology can be applied immediately. But I want to talk about more than just business: the collaboration with a center of excellence like the University of Pisa has been a particular source of pride for us, as it demonstrates how cooperation between the worlds of business and academia/research can create real, positive change for people’s lives and needs”.

The process to complete the printer and bring it to market will be led by Bio3DPrinting, a Group company whose Board of Directors is chaired by Aurora De Acutis, a young biomedical engineer and researcher. The process will involve coordinating and drawing on the SolidWorld Group's more than twenty years of experience - including in the biomedical sector – of a network of consolidated relationships, and substantial expertise in the sector.

Electrospider will be presented to the public for the first time at the International Conference on Biofabrication “Biofabrication 2022”, promoted by the International Society for Biofabrication in Tuscany, in Montecatini Terme (PT) from 25 to 28 September 2022. SolidWorld Group is platinum sponsor of the event.

SolidWorld Group S.p.A. is the parent of a group of 11 companies founded in the early 2000s by engineer Roberto Rizzo. Listed on the Euronext Growth Milan segment, the Group is a leading developer and integrator of the latest and most comprehensive digital 3D software and hardware for manufacturing companies, supporting and accelerating their journey to Industry 4.0.

Thanks to SolidWorld, all stages of production - as far as sale and recycling - are integrated using technologies that make the production process faster and more sustainable and efficient. It operates through 14 offices and 3 technology hubs and has over 150 employees and more than 8,000 client enterprises. The SolidWorld Group in 2021 reported a value of production of approx. Euro 58 million (2021 pro forma consolidated figures), up 16% on the 2020 consolidated figure. The company has been listed on the Euronext Growth Milan segment of Borsa Italiana since July 6, 2022 (with ticker S3D).

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