

Lumenisity® Limited receives a major investment from a consortium of investors

Funding from investors including BGF and Parkwalk will support further commercialisation and building of new manufacturing and testing facility

30 September 2020 London: Lumenisity® Limited, which has developed ground-breaking fibre optic and cabling technology, has closed a £7.5 million funding round from a consortium of investors. This includes a £5 million investment from BGF, the UK and Ireland’s most active investor, and £2.5 million from Parkwalk, the most active investor into UK university spinouts, alongside significant further funding from the company’s existing industrial strategic investors.

Lumenisity develops and manufactures advanced cable solutions to address the need for high speed transactions and bandwidth increases in high capacity communications systems.

Hollowcore fibres, where light propagates in an air containing core formed by microscopic capillaries, are long recognised as the next stage of advancement in fibre optic cable technology. They have many advantages over conventional solid glass fibres.

Key challenges have been both the design and manufacturing processes. In particular, for making fibres and to develop the cable and processes for seamless in-field installation in existing and green field networks. Lumenisity has solved many of these challenges in collaboration with the University of Southampton, to create cables suitable for deployment in meaningful lengths for the network.

With more emphasis on the digital economy, autonomy and virtual working than ever before, customers are searching for low latency, high capacity solutions, which Lumenisity’s innovative cabling solutions are able to offer. Datacentres, a key market for the business, will be able to extend their network over a broader area with increased speed and capacity, driving network efficiency and enabling access to affordable real estate and utilities.

The investment will be used to further commercialise the world leading research beyond current products and to build a new manufacturing and testing facility.

David Parker, Lumenisity Chairman said: “We are thrilled to have received this investment. With strong track records in backing pioneering technology companies and a patient capital approach, we’ve found the perfect investors to partner with. We are excited to drive innovation and build the necessary infrastructure for a new digital age.

“The manufacturing and testing facility which we are building in the UK with this investment is set to drive growth for our business and the industry as a whole.”

Mark Byrant at BGF said: “We are delighted to have completed this investment into Lumenisity and to support them on their journey to develop and roll out their pioneering technology. Lumenisity is an exciting company driving real progress in the sector, with a talented, experienced management team and a strong potential for significant growth and expansion.

“BGF has a strong track record in the technology sector, and we remain committed to supporting and backing the next generation of strong technology businesses, like Lumenisity, that will help to shape our future.”

The investment was led by BGF’s Mark Bryant, George Tsangarides and Zahir Kasmani.

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About BGF:

- BGF was set up in 2011 and has invested more than £2.2bn in over 330 companies, making it the most active investor in the UK.
- BGF is a minority, non-controlling equity partner with a patient outlook on investments, based on shared long-term goals with the management teams it backs.
- BGF invests in growing businesses in the UK and Ireland through its network of 16 offices.

www.bgf.co.uk

Social media: @BGFinvestments

About Parkwalk

Parkwalk is the largest growth EIS fund manager, backing world-changing technologies emerging from the UK’s leading universities and research institutions. With £300m of assets under management, it has invested in over 120 companies across its flagship Parkwalk Opportunities EIS Fund as well as the award-winning enterprise and innovation funds Parkwalk manages for the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Bristol. Parkwalk invests in businesses creating solutions to real-world challenges, with IP-protected innovations, across a range of sectors including life sciences, AI, quantum computing, advanced materials, genomics, cleantech, future of mobility, MedTech and big data.

www.parkwalkadvisors.com

About Lumenisity Limited

Lumenisity® Limited was formed in early 2017 as a spin out from the University of Southampton to commercialise breakthroughs in the development of hollowcore optical fibre. The company has built a team of industry leaders and experts to realise their goal to be the world’s premier high-performance hollowcore fibre optic cable solutions provider offering their customers reliable, deployable, low latency and high bandwidth connections that unlock new capabilities in communication networks. Lumenisity® is a registered trademark of Lumenisity Limited.

www.lumenisity.com

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