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## GENOMICS | DIAGNOSTIC TESTS | GENETICS | R&D

# Genomic Vision selected for the Horizon 2020 program's `BeyondSeq' project with a total grant of €6 million

# Molecular combing has been chosen as one of the innovative technologies to analyze genetic mutations beyond next generation sequencing

**Bagneux (France) - Genomic Vision (FR0011799907 – GV)**, a molecular diagnostics company specialized in the development of diagnostic tests for genetic diseases and cancers based on molecular combing, today announces that it has been selected to take part in the BeyondSeq (Genomic diagnostics beyond the sequence) project, which has won a highly-selective tender within the framework of Horizon 2020, the European Commission's program aimed at supporting research and innovation. This project, coordinated by Tel Aviv University, brings together 6 other participants, including a British company and Swedish, Israeli, British and Belgian universities.

The goal of the BeyondSeq project, with a total budget of €6 million until 2019, is to bridge the technological gap between cytogenetic diagnostics, which can identify chromosomal aberrations, and next generation sequencing (NGS), which can detect single base-pair mutations. Genomic Vision's molecular combing technology perfectly meets this need, by making it possible to visualize single DNA molecules with a high definition and thus identify structural variations in the genome, which are the cause of numerous serious pathologies, and notably certain hereditary types of cancer.

The mission of the participants in this project will be to develop a set of tools, from systems for extracting long DNA molecules and preparing samples through to analysis software to interpret genetic information.

Applications will address a number of indications such as bacterial infections and antibiotic resistance, hematological malignancies, early diagnosis of colorectal and lung cancer, as well as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Genomic Vision will thus bring its expertise in the detection of structural variations involved in SMA (deletion of both copies of the SMN 1 gene), and will notably be responsible for developing a test that is capable of identifying "2+0" carriers (carriers of both copies of the SMN 1 gene on a chromosome), which are undetectable using existing techniques.

**Yuval Ebenstein, the project's coordinator at Tel Aviv University, says:** "BeyondSeq is a project that is emblematic of European genetic research, whose objective is to develop new technologies to provide complementary solutions to sequencing and thus analyze the hidden dimension of genetic mutations. Our workgroup consists of experts in this field, and we are delighted that a company such as Genomic Vision – with its unique molecular combing technology that is capable of studying individual DNA molecules – should be a part of it."

**Aaron Bensimon, Genomic Vision's co-founder and Chairman, adds:** "As a world leader in the manipulation of individual molecules of DNA, it is totally natural that Genomic Vision should take part in this ambitious research project. This collaboration is completely in line with the technological development strategy that we are implementing in accordance with <del>at</del> the commitments we made at the time of our IPO. Genomic Vision will provide this prestigious consortium with its industrial experience while benefiting from the consortium's academic know-how in order to drive its technology forward towards a new generation of molecular combing."



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#### **ABOUT GENOMIC VISION**

Founded in 2004, Genomic Vision is a molecular diagnostics company specialized in the development of diagnostic tests for genetic diseases and cancers based on molecular combing. Using this innovative technology that allows the direct visualization of individual DNA molecules, Genomic Vision detects quantitative and qualitative variations in the genome that are at the origin of numerous serious pathologies. The Company is developing a solid portfolio of tests that notably target breast cancer and cancer of the colon. Since 2013, the Company has marketed the CombHeliX FSHD test for identifying a myopathy that is difficult to detect, Facio-scapulo-humeral dystrophy (FSHD), in the United States thanks to a strategic alliance with Quest Diagnostics, the American leader in diagnostic laboratory tests, and in France. Genomic Vision has been listed on Compartment C of Euronext Paris since April 2014.

#### ABOUT MOLECULAR COMBING

DNA molecular combing technology considerably improves the structural and functional analysis of DNA molecules. DNA fibers are stretched out on glass slides, as if "combed", and uniformly aligned over the whole surface. It is then possible to identify genetic anomalies by locating genes or specific sequences in a patient's genome using genetic markers, an approach developed by Genomic Vision and patented under the name Genomic Morse Code. This exploration of the entire genome at high resolution via a simple analysis enables the direct visualization of genetic anomalies that are undetectable by other technologies.

For further information, please go to www.genomicvision.com

## **CONTACTS**

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