

## PRESS RELEASE

## MaxWell Biosystems Completes CHF 4 million Series A Financing Round

Zurich, Switzerland, 16 December 2020 – MaxWell Biosystems AG, a spin-off from ETH Zürich founded in 2016 announced today the closing of a CHF 4 million Series A financing round to further industrialize and scale-up the production of their consumables, so called multiwell high-density microelectrode array (HD-MEA) plates. Such scale-up will enable the customers of MaxWell Biosystems in the pharmaceutical industry to run functional drug screenings at a higher throughput and ultimately contribute to accelerate the development of drugs targeting the brain. This Series A was closed together with Sensirion Holding AG and other existing shareholders and business angels. With this financing round, MaxWell Biosystems is welcoming Dr. Matthias Streiff, Sensor Innovation at Sensirion, as a new board member.

MaxWell Biosystems AG develops and commercializes cell imaging systems that empower scientists in pharma and academia to reveal the function of neuronal networks in a dish. With these systems, users can accelerate the development of drugs targeting the brain and advance the understanding of the brain's function. At the core of MaxWell Biosystems' technology is a custom designed microsensor, a high-density microelectrode array (HD-MEAs), with thousands of tiny electrodes simultaneously sensing the small electrical signals of neuronal cells. This sensor is designed by MaxWell Biosystems and ETH Zürich, and is fabricated using CMOS-technology.

Sensirion Holding AG is the leading manufacturer of digital microsensors and systems. Sensirion's product range includes gas and liquid flow sensors, as well as environmental sensors. Based on Sensirion's extensive experience in the industrialization of CMOS-based microsensors, Sensirion's products are applied in the medical, automotive, consumer, and industrial end markets, including analytical instruments.

Sensirion and MaxWell Biosystems have a long common history, dating back to their origin in the research groups of Prof. Henry Baltes and Prof. Andreas Hierlemann at the Physical Electronics Laboratory and, later, the Bio Engineering Laboratory of ETH Zürich. Soon after Sensirion spun off from the Physical Electronics Laboratory to commercialize gas flow and humidity microsensors, the lab's focus shifted to chemical and biosensors. CMOS-based "neurochips" have been developed at ETH Zürich since 2001 and are commercially offered by MaxWell Biosystems since 2016. Building on their common origin and history, and with this financing round, MaxWell Biosystems and Sensirion now increase their collaborative efforts and envision a long-term partnership. Sensirion's deep expertise in packaging and encapsulating microsensors for high volume production adds a tremendous value to this partnership and will be an enabling step for MaxWell Biosystems' goal of scaling up their multiwell HD-MEA plate production to address their customers' need.

Jan Müller, CTO and president of the Board of MaxWell Biosystems, says: "I'm extremely honored to announce our strengthened partnership with Sensirion. I am very happy to welcome Dr. Matthias Streiff as a new board member at MaxWell Biosystems. With his broad expertise in industrial microsensor technology, I am sure that he will strongly contribute to our technology strategy. With this partnership, we are now a huge step closer to empowering our customers with a drastically increased experimental throughput, which is very crucial to achieve high statistical significance and at the same time to reduce time and efforts. I am very excited and really looking forward to this next phase."

Matthias Streiff, Sensor Innovation at Sensirion, comments: "I'm very excited to be able to support MaxWell Biosystems in their journey to enable high-throughput functional drug screening. We are convinced that through Sensirion's Board membership, we can contribute not only to accelerate the scale-up of MaxWell Biosystems' production capabilities, but also to provide significant commercial insight through our strategic leadership. We see this next step as a natural continuation of our long-term partnership."

For further information about MaxWell Biosystems, see [www.mxwbio.com](http://www.mxwbio.com)  
To learn more about Sensirion, please visit [www.sensirion.com](http://www.sensirion.com).



Dr. Matthias Streiff, Sensor Innovation at Sensirion and Board Member at MaxWell Biosystems

### About MaxWell Biosystems AG

MaxWell Biosystems AG provides high-content electrophysiology platforms that advance scientific discovery and accelerate drug discovery for neurodegenerative diseases. The company was founded in September 2016 as an ETH Zürich spin-off with its first product, MaxOne, a high-density microelectrode (HD-MEA) system used by academic and research laboratories to investigate the activity of cells in vitro at network, cellular, and subcellular levels. The launch of MaxTwo, a multi-well HD-MEA platform, increases the throughput of performing cell-based assays to 6- and 24-well plates catering to pharmaceutical and biotech companies, as well as contract research organizations. MaxWell Biosystems is a leading expert, both on the technology to develop hardware and software, as well as on the scientific applications of HD-MEAs.

## SENSIRION

THE SENSOR COMPANY

### About Sensirion Holding AG

Sensirion Holding AG, headquartered in Stäfa, Switzerland, is a leading manufacturer of digital microsensors and systems. The product range includes gas and liquid flow sensors, differential pressure sensors and environmental sensors for the measurement of humidity and temperature, volatile organic compounds (VOC), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). An international network with sales offices in China, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the US supplies international customers with standard and custom sensor system solutions for a vast range of applications. Sensirion sensors can commonly be found in the automotive, medical, industrial, and consumer end markets.

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