

HOME **ARTICLES** 

**NEWS** FEATURES ~ PODCASTS ~

NEWS

## Aviogel secures € 300,000 investment from Scientifica Venture Capital to evolutionize firefighting and restore ecosystems

MARK SETON - 28/10/2024 10 VIEWS













Scientifica Venture Capital is pleased to announce its investment in Aviogel, marking the addition of a 15th start-up to its portfolio. Aviogel is one of the two winning startups of the Inverso acceleration program, an initiative designed to support innovative companies developing cutting-edge technological solutions to address environmental challenges.

Aviogel stands out for its revolutionary technology aimed at transforming wildfire management. At the heart of this innovation are biodegradable hydrogel spheres, engineered to be deployed by aerial firefighting units. Upon contact with water or other liquids, these spheres absorb the moisture, increasing their weight and ensuring greater accuracy during drops, even from higher altitudes. This feature not only reduces risk for pilots but also enhances the safety and efficiency of firefighting operations.

However, the true value of Aviogel lies in its ability to combine firefighting efforts with immediate forest regeneration. The spheres not only help extinguish flames but also release seeds or nutrients, initiating the reforestation process immediately following deployment. Thus, every aerial intervention does not merely combat an emergency but also lays the groundwork for ecosystem rejuvenation.

A crucial aspect of Aviogel's technology development will be its industrialization, which will take place within the laboratories of Scientifica Venture Capital – an over 4,000 m2 space entirely dedicated to science and innovation. These cutting-edge facilities are designed to support scientific startups by facilitating the transition from concept to prototype and fostering their growth through a resource-rich environment and specialized expertise. Specifically, with access to Scientifica's proprietary labs, Aviogel will be able to accelerate its time-to-market, maximizing growth potential.

As climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of wildfires, the urgency for solutions that not only protect ecosystems but also contribute to their



HOME ARTICLES NEWS FEATURES > PODCASTS > VIDEOS EVENTS > LATEST ISSUE SUBSCRIBE TESTIMONIALS MEDIA PACK DOWNLOADQ

regeneration is more critical than ever. Current technologies primarily focus on extinguishing fires, often overlooking the long-term damage inflicted on local ecosystems. The Aviogel team – composed of William Carbone, Stéphanie Jansen-Havreng and Sevan Daniel Gerard — shifts this narrative by proposing a holistic approach that combines immediate protection with a sustainable vision for the future.

William Carbone, co-founder of Aviogel, articulates the company's mission: "We aimed to create a technology that not only extinguishes fires but also aids nature in its regeneration. With our hydrogel spheres, we seek to empower pilots to execute more precise and safe aerial interventions while simultaneously kickstarting the reforestation process in fire-affected areas. Every intervention is an act of protection and regeneration."

Sevan Gerard, co-founder of Aviogel, adds: "My career as a firefighter and paramedic taught me the priceless value of rapid, targeted response in emergencies, where every second and every action counts. With Aviogel, we've succeeded in creating not only an effective tool in the fight against fires but also a means to immediately bring new life to affected areas. We believe our technology can make a tangible difference, building a bridge between community safety and the revival of the surrounding environment."

This unique combination has caught the attention of Scientifica Venture Capital, which is committed to investing in technologies that tackle pressing environmental challenges. Aviogel perfectly aligns with Scientifica's philosophy of supporting companies with ambitious visions and practical solutions to improve the world.

"What impressed us about Aviogel is the synergistic effectiveness of the solution developed by its team. It is not just an isolated technological innovation but a concept that has the potential to deliver tangible benefits to communities and preserve the ecosystems in which we live. The approach adopted by Aviogel is characterized by a forward-looking and sustainable vision aimed at solving complex issues related to wildfire management. We are excited to monitor Aviogel's progress and the potential of this technology to revolutionize future fire prevention and management practices." stated Riccardo D'Alessandri, managing partner of Scientifica Venture Capital.

Aviogel's technology could represent a genuine sustainable revolution in fire management. The idea of combating flames while simultaneously contributing to the immediate restoration of ecosystems is a groundbreaking perspective that could not only save lives but also mitigate the long-term impact of wildfires on devastated lands.

With this new investment, Scientifica Venture Capital reaffirms its commitment to supporting projects with strong growth potential. This is not the first time that this investment holding has focused on innovative solutions that address market challenges while offering sustainable approaches. The investment in Aviogel represents a strategic step towards capitalizing on market opportunities that integrate profit with environmental responsibility, demonstrating that sustainability can indeed be a driver of growth.

Discover Aviogel here