The EPFL spin-off SensArs Neuroprosthetics wins 130,000 Swiss francs

St. Gall / Zurich / Lausanne, February 15th, 2017 – The startup SensArs Neuroprosthetics restores feelings to amputees’ missing legs. In December 2016 the first prototype of SensArs’ product was successfully implanted by an international team of specialists. This medical device gets worldwide attention and wins CHF 130’000 of pre-seed capital at the Venture Kick final.

Almost 4 million of lower limb amputees live in USA and Europe. 50% of them don’t have any feeling of their prostheses. Because of this lack, they risk falls, they do not feel the prosthesis as their body and they suffer from phantom pain. Due to such inconveniences 60% of the amputees abandon their prosthesis.

**New prostheses with a real feeling**

A century after the first prostheses, SensArs Neuroprosthetics develops a worldwide unique patented technology which enables amputees to feel again naturally from missing limbs. The collaboration with international prosthetics market leaders and hospitals allow the team to run clinical trials with their new neuroprostheses. Further clinical trials require additional investments. In December 2016, the international team guided by the co-founders of SensArs Neuroprosthetics and a clinical advisor with experience in the Balkan war, successfully performed the first worldwide implant of feelings restoration technologies in lower limb amputees. The startup was invited to various international conferences last year and traveled to USA, Hong Kong, China and South Africa. Francesco Petrini, co-founder and CEO of SensArs, is very happy about the great achievement: “Venture Kick with the tough challenges proposed by its experts and with its jury feedbacks, boosted our business case toward a competitive implementation for success. Thank you Venture Kick!”

**External links:**
The technology of SensArs in video
About Venture Kick

The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides up to CHF 130,000 to seed stage startups. On top, it offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path towards building a winning business. Startups present in front of a jury at three stages to obtain funding as well as direct feedback and access to an international network of successful entrepreneurs and investors.

Since 2007, 463 Swiss startup projects have received CHF 18,650,000 from Venture Kick. This resulted in 303 active companies with 3,881 jobs. Startup companies supported by Venture Kick attracted CHF 1,347,000,000 from investors so far. And 54 startups from Venture Kick made it into the TOP 100 Swiss Startups 2016. In 2017 Venture Kick will pay out CHF 3,000,000 to idea-stage startup projects to bring Swiss science to global markets. More: Venture Kick annual report 2016.

The Venture Kick Foundation is supported by Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation Lombard Odier, Debiopharm Group, Fondation Pro Techno, Rising Tide Foundation, European Space Agency, Engagement Migros, Swisscom, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss and Martin Haefner.

www.venturekick.ch

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