

**Company** [BATM Advanced Communications Ltd](#)  
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**Headline** BATM invests in Opticul Diagnostics  
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**BATM Advanced Communications Limited**  
**("BATM" or "the Group")**

**BATM invests in *In Vitro* Diagnostics Device Company, Opticul Diagnostics**  
*Opticul Diagnostics technology offers specific, sensitive, "within minutes" identification of bacteria*

BATM Advanced Communications Limited (LSE: BVC; TASE: BATM), a leading provider of real-time technologies for the networked telecoms and medical laboratory equipment markets, is pleased to announce that it has agreed to invest up to \$450,000 in *in vitro* diagnostics device company, Opticul Diagnostics.

**Highlights of the Agreement**

- Opticul has developed a revolutionary process for rapid diagnosis, using photonic laser technologies, of micro-organisms based on their outer morphology.
- The process - applied through the Optidet® device - enables faster, lower cost and more reliable diagnostics compared with all known current technologies.
- BATM and Opticul will conduct joint R&D, in the U.S. and Israel, to develop and launch the next prototype of Optidet®.
- Of the agreed investment, \$200,000 is being paid upfront in cash and the remainder as milestones are achieved.
- BATM will own 20% of the issued share capital of Opticul Diagnostics.

BATM and Opticul have cooperated over the last two years, with the Group having built an early prototype of the device. Under the terms of the investment agreement, BATM will continue to conduct joint R&D with Opticul, and will participate in developing and launching the next prototype, which will be presented at the Medica show in Dusseldorf, Germany in November 2014. In addition, BATM has been given exclusive rights to distribute the device in China and Russia. The semi-commercial prototypes are expected to be launched in late 2015, with full commercialisation scheduled for 2016 beginning with the U.S.

### **Benefits of Optidet®**

- Optidet® is a diagnostics machine able to identify microbes, bacteria and yeast in the clinical laboratory - without the use of reagents.
- Currently, samples are collected from patients and sent to the clinical laboratory where the laboratory technician plates the sample on a primary, non-specific petri dish for 18-24 hours before identification can be made.
- With Opticul Diagnostics, the technician picks up one colony from the dish and smears it on a disposable unit. The unit is then inserted into Optidet® and the result of specific bacteria appears on the screen within three minutes and at total a cost of under \$5.
- As such, Optidet® provides the clinical lab with an easy-to-use, rapid and low cost bacterial identification solution. This has the potential to save a mid-size hospital in the U.S. approximately \$22 million a year as well as generating much less waste. In addition, patients benefit from better care with quicker results.

### **Regulatory approval**

Opticul has already obtained regulatory approval with 510K clearance from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration ("FDA") for an early prototype as well as European ISO 13485 clearance. The company is currently seeking FDA approval for prototype 2.1 - for which it has submitted 2,450 samples in the U.S. Opticul has also filed 10 patents in the U.S. and worldwide with one having already been granted.

Dr. Zvi Marom, CEO of BATM, said: "We're delighted to have invested in Opticul Diagnostics. Opticul has invented a truly disruptive technology that is able to identify a type of bacteria in minutes instead of days. This investment is complementary to our diagnostics business and adds another technology offering to our portfolio. The cooperation with Prof. Israel and Dr. Gallya Gannot, who lead the Opticul team, has been excellent and we look forward to a very fruitful collaborative venture."

## Enquiries

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