



## **Robocath appoints Pascal Guy as CEO**

**Medical device expert will help secure the development of the medical robotics start-up against the backdrop of robust growth in the cardiovascular market**

**Rouen, France, December 12, 2016** – Robocath, a medical robotics start-up developing disruptive technology aimed at improving endovascular procedures, announces today the appointment of Pascal Guy as CEO. An expert in cardiovascular medical devices, Pascal Guy can draw on over 20 years experience in the medtech industry. He joined Robocath in 2015 as a consultant and gradually assumed the role of CEO. Prior to joining Robocath, for four years he held the position of international vice president at Stryker Neurovascular. Before that, he was global VP sales and marketing for Europe and Japan with the Sorin Group. Between 1996 and 2007, he built a career at Boston Scientific, holding various management posts such as VP international vascular.

"We are delighted to welcome Pascal Guy in this strategic management position, especially since Robocath is currently at a pivotal moment in its development," said Philippe Bencteux, founder and president. "Thanks to his wealth of experience working with vascular medical devices in some of the leading companies, he will bring to Robocath his strategic management skills, his understanding of the needs of the sector and his up-to-date knowledge of the market. Doctors are becoming increasingly aware of the health problems caused by daily exposure to X-rays. We aim to be involved in this awareness-raising process and help health professionals do their job in the safest possible manner. The potential benefits of robotics are enormous for practitioners, patients and, more generally, hospitals and healthcare systems."

Pascal Guy's expertise in cardiovascular and neurovascular medical devices is expected to help accelerate the start-up's development. The new CEO will be responsible for successfully concluding the next steps in the company's development: a pre-clinical trial starting in the next few months, acquisition of CE marking and FDA approval, and launching the R-One robot on the market (provisionally at the end of 2017) and its international roll-out. Thanks to his network of contacts, Pascal Guy will be able to speed up the process of drawing up strategic and scientific opinions and help raise the necessary capital for the next stages in the firm's development. He will also work on consolidating the company's intellectual property and assets alongside its president, Philippe Bencteux. This appointment is in line with Robocath's long-term objective of becoming a leader in the field of vascular robotics.

Currently in the pre-industrial phase, the R-One robot developed by Robocath allows vascular procedures to be performed without exposure to X-rays, thereby responding to the challenges of interventional cardiology. According to the WHO, cardio-vascular disease is responsible for 17.5 million deaths annually<sup>1</sup>, making it one of the leading causes of death worldwide. These pathologies require interventions such as angioplasty (insertion of catheters and stents), which take place under exposure to x-rays. Despite considerable improvements over the past years, healthcare staff are still exposed on a daily basis to the detrimental effects of irradiation. Ionising radiation is responsible for a

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs317/en/>

number of recognised occupational diseases, including cataracts, cancer<sup>2</sup>, musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD) due to the prolonged wearing of a protective lead apron, thyroid problems, skin lesions and semantic, lexical or short term visual memory problems.

"The robotic technology developed by Robocath addresses the challenges of tomorrow's interventional cardiovascular treatments and brings important benefits for patients and cath labs staff, whilst addressing the medico-economic challenges of modern healthcare systems. The momentum we see in the adoption of robotic solutions in various medical and surgical specialties, as well as the acquisition of these solutions by major players in our industry, shows a growing interest in these new technologies," said Pascal Guy, chief executive officer at Robocath. "European and American key opinion leaders have already joined our scientific board, highlighting the strength of this project and its potential to disrupt interventional vascular procedures."

### **About Robocath**

Robocath is a medical robotics start-up developing disruptive technology aimed at improving the management of endovascular procedures. These micro-invasive procedures are performed via outpatient catheterization.

Developed by Dr Philippe Bencteux, a neuro-radiology specialist, with a diploma from ESSEC, and his team, the R-One robot allows catheters to be manipulated from an operating console during angioplasty. It significantly improves the safety of health professionals who are exposed to X-rays as well as the quality of care for patients. What's more, it results in major savings for both the hospital and the healthcare system. Protected by over 30 international patents, Robocath's robotic platform is compatible with standard equipment and boasts a user-friendly navigation system. It is based on two key technologies: R-grasp, an anthropomorphic system allowing simultaneous rotation and translation with millimetre precision, and SecurAccess, which ensures the stability of the catheter in order to prevent loss of access to the lesion.

Founded in 2009, Robocath is based in Rouen at the Seine Biopolis cluster. It employs 16 people. The company raised €3 million via Go Capital and NCI. It receives financial support from bpifrance and the Normandy Region. Robocath is part of the 'Rouen Innovation Santé' economic initiative on health run by City of Rouen in Normandy. It is also involved in the competitiveness clusters of Medicen Paris Region and Cap Digital.

<http://www.robocath.com/en> / <https://twitter.com/robocath>

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<sup>2</sup> Brain and neck tumors among physicians performing interventional procedures (2013): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23419190> / Risk of cancer from occupational exposure to ionising radiation (2015): <http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h5359>