

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

ChinaLink Technology Fund bets on CleanAir: a Spanish company that removes virus from the air

Miguel Angel Garat and Pablo Fernandez, two Spanish entrepreneurs based in Shanghai, who have created **DuctFIT**® air purification technology

The venture capital technology fund, **ChinaLink Capital**, has decided to invest into the company CleanAir, founded five years ago in China by two Spaniards, Miguel Garat and Pablo Fernández, who have developed an air purification technology that eliminates 99% of viruses in enclosed places such as companies, hotels and hospitals around the world, according to a study carried out by the P3 safety laboratory of Microbiology of the Virgen de las Nieves University Hospital in Granada.

In particular, the technology fund bets on the successful company giving it a strong financial investment.

ChinaLink, which also chairs a Spaniard, Javier Romero, is a technology fund owned by The Gamma Consortium that manages Hedge Fund and Private Equity funds (AUM 5 Billion USD) mainly in technology sectors, such as CNET (China New Era Technology Fund) with China Merchant Group (the largest Chinese business conglomerate with 1 trillion USD of assets) and Centricus, a London fund that designed and ran Softbank's Vision Fund.

In addition, ChinaLink specializes in technology sectors such as cloud computing, renewable energy, smart cities and biotechnology.

Over the past 10 years, it has brought more than 20 companies out of its portfolio in Asia and the United States, some as successful as Sungrow Power or Tsingua Unigroup Semiconductors. And other very successful ones that still remain private, but with ratings of more than \$10 billion as SpaceX from Elon Musk, Didi who bought Uber in China or Bytedance owning TikTok.

Health and biotechnology

CleanAir's investment fits perfectly into ChinaLink's strategy in the health and biotechnology sector, as a unique virus removal system, including coronavirus, and bacteria, as explained by ChinaLink President Javier Romero, a Spanish citizen based in Hong Kong and Shanghai for 12 years: "The potential of CleanAir goes beyond the purification of closed spaces of viruses, in some deadly cases, and bacteria, which obviously prevent contagions like those we live today with the Covid-19; the company is researching applications in the area of lung and pathogen-related diseases, which also has a big impact on the longevity of humans, which the company is already researching with a biotechnological startup from the University of Cambridge that also belongs to the ChinaLink portfolio."

Romero anticipates that "we hope to announce a collaboration with the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) in this field of longevity with a project that we are already designing with them. All this made us think that investing in CleanAir will not only be very financially attractive to ChinaLink but can have a social impact of extraordinary dimensions."

Miguel Angel Garat and Pablo Fernandez, two Spanish entrepreneurs based in Shanghai, created the company CleanAir, to take advantage of the high demand for this type of products that exists in China in the face of the high concentration of pollution and pollutants in the country.

They focused since 2016 on creating technologies to improve people's well-being and developed **DuctFIT®** CAS' (Catalytic Antiviral Superoxidation), a patented technology - whose beginnings is at NASA - that allows for the effective and definitive elimination of viruses and bacteria, both in the air and on surfaces (woods, metals, fabrics or plastics) and compatible with the presence of people in disinfected areas as they do not use chemicals harmful to health such as ozone, chlorine or even ultraviolet rays of direct incidence.

This virus removal system, certified by international laboratories and universities, is currently installed in more than 28 million square meters of offices, colleges and health centres, where more than 1.6 million people visit, work or live.

DuctFIT® is based on continuous H₂O₂ ion generation.

With a simple and low investment installation the products are placed in the air ducts and from there the highly disinfectant hydrogen peroxide ions are spread throughout the space, eliminating viruses and bacteria 24 hours a day, being 100% safe for people, animals and food, as they claim.

When the process is activated, the water vapour from the air becomes H₂O₂ ions that surround the virus affecting its lipid membrane or its proteins. In this way, viruses become inactive, losing their infectious capacity until they eventually die.

In addition to eliminating viruses, this **DuctFIT®** technology purifies air and allows the constant removal of bacteria, mites, pollen, mold, carcinogenic chemical compounds and odors 24 hours a day of the week, as the equipment can stay on and leaves no untreated spaces as the ions reach all areas.

According to the company, hospitals, including the Virgen de las Nieves de Granada, and multinationals, companies and hotels around the world such as Bayer, Novartis, Inditex, H&M, El Corte Inglés, Hyatt, Intercontinental Group, Ferrari, Gestamp, Cisco, Tesla, Coca Cola, BBVA, HSBC or Citibank, have opted for this technology with a Spanish seal.