

## NEWS RELEASE

# Printing the Future of Oncology: CTIBIOTECH invests €3M and secures €1.25M from France 2030 to Revolutionize Personalized Cancer Care

**CTIBIOTECH™, a leading innovator in advanced human tissue engineering, proudly announces CTIONCOTEST™ platform is awarded Major Bpifrance Funding to Industrialize 3D Bioprinted Cancer Models**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Lyon, France – April 28th, 2026 –

**CTIBIOTECH Announces the CTIONCOTEST™ Project to Revolutionize Cancer Research with 3D Bioprinted Microtumors, Backed by France 2030 and Bpifrance**

CTIBIOTECH™, an innovative French Contract Research, Development, and Manufacturing Organization (CRDMO) based in Meyzieu-Lyon, proudly announces the launch of the **CTIONCOTEST™** project, a groundbreaking €3 million initiative aimed at transforming preclinical cancer research. To accelerate this critical innovation, **CTIBIOTECH™** has been awarded €1.25 million in funding from Bpifrance under the "Aide au Développement DeepTech" program, with the strategic support of France 2030 and the Government of France.

Currently, **95%** of new cancer drugs fail during human clinical trials, costing the pharmaceutical industry billions of euros and delaying life-saving treatments for patients. The **CTIONCOTEST™** project addresses this urgent global health challenge by developing an automated, industrial-scale process to 3D bioprint hundreds of standardized human "microtumors" directly from a specific cancer patient's primary tumor cells.

Over a 36-month period, the project will advance the technology from a working prototype (TRL 5) to a fully functional, high-throughput commercial product (TRL 8) ready for market entry by 2029.

Key highlights of the **CTIONCOTEST™** project include:

- **CTIONCOTEST™** is a **de-risking tool for the pharmaceutical industry**, where 95% of new treatments currently fail in clinical trials due to poor preclinical predictivity.
- **Market Drivers:** Rising global cancer mortality (projected 12M deaths by 2030) and regulatory pressure to adopt New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to replace animal testing.
- **Business Model:** Dual-revenue strategy involving the sale of turnkey kits and contract research/innovation (CRDMO) for biopharma partners.
- **Future Vision:** Establishing global leadership in custom bioproduction for immunology and personalized medicine
- **Focus on High-Mortality Cancers:** The project will specifically develop functional 3D models for **breast, colon, and pancreatic cancers**—areas that currently suffer from a severe lack of reliable experimental models.
- **Unprecedented Biological Fidelity:** Unlike manual methods, CTIBIOTECH's computer-aided 3D bioprinting perfectly mimics the complex tumor microenvironment, including hypoxic and necrotic zones. These models have demonstrated a **record-breaking cellular viability of 128 days**, allowing researchers to conduct unprecedented long-term studies on drug resistance and cancer metastasis.
- **Ethical Alternatives to Animal Testing:** By providing a highly predictive, 100% human-derived testing platform, **CTIONCOTEST™ actively supports the regulatory shift towards New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), drastically reducing and replacing the need for animal experimentation** in preclinical trials.
- **A Collaborative Ecosystem of Excellence:** Labilized by the **Lyon biopôle Auvergne Rhone-Alpes** competitiveness cluster, the project integrates a world-class network of academic, clinical, and industrial partners. Key collaborators include the **Centre Léon Bérard, Hospices Civils de Lyon (HCL), Medical University Plovdiv, Transgene, GenXMap, Oncodesign Services, and Novotec.**

Professor Colin McGuckin, President and Chief Scientific Officer of CTIBIOTECH™ shared his pride and vision *"The industrialization of the CTIONCOTEST platform marks a crucial step toward personalized medicine against cancer, where treatments can be individually tailored to a patient's specific tumor profile"*.

*"This financial support from the French State represents a vital lever to maximize the impact of our technology, allowing us to advance twice as fast in developing and commercializing these 3D bioprinted microtumors for transform cancer drug development"* added Dr Nico Forraz, Chief Executive Officer of CTIBIOTECH™

The CTIONCOTEST™ project will directly contribute to local economic growth, **creating 5 immediate permanent scientific positions in 2026, with projections to create 51 jobs and 16 million euros revenue by 2031**. Research, development, and industrialization efforts will be conducted at CTIBIOTECH's 800m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art facility and certified biobank in Meyzieu, Metropolis of Lyon, France.

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**About CTIBIOTECH™:** CTIBIOTECH™ is a global biotechnology company specializing leader in 3D bioprinting and advanced human tissue engineering. By transforming discarded human surgical tissues into high-value predictive bioassays, CTIBIOTECH™ provides integrated drug discovery, development and innovation solutions for the pharmaceutical, medical device, and cell therapy industries globally.

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## CTIONCOTEST™: Redefining Cancer Research with Personalized 3D Bioprinted Microtumors

### THE CORE MISSION



#### Giving a "Second Life" to Human Tissues

CTIBIOTECH transforms discarded surgical biological samples into high-value predictive systems for drug testing.

#### Beyond Traditional Organoids

Unlike manual, operator-dependent methods, CTIONCOTEST™ offers a standardized, automated, and highly reproducible industrial process.

**€2.46 MILLION**  
INNOVATION PROJECT

A 36-month initiative (2026-2029) to advance the technology from TRL 5 to a commercialized TRL 5 level.

### THE WORKFLOW: FROM PATIENT TO BIOASSAY



#### 1. TISSUE COLLECTION

Healthy and pathological human tissues are collected following surgical procedures.



#### 2. DISSOCIATION & ISOLATION

Specialized protocols and MACS cell sorting isolate primary cells while preserving their maximum viability.



#### 3. 3D BIO-PRINTING

Automated high-resolution printing creates customized 3D tissue structures in a fraction of the time of traditional methods.



#### 4. PREDICTIVE BIOASSAYS

The final microtumors are used in "xits" to test drug efficacy and patient response before clinical trials.

### BENEFITS FOR CANCER RESEARCH



#### SUPERIOR PREDICTIVE POWER

Realistic models improve the accuracy of preclinical tests, leading to higher success rates in human trials.



#### PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

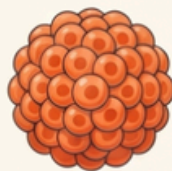
Since models are created from primary patient cells, treatments can be tailored to the specific biology of an individual's tumor.



#### ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT

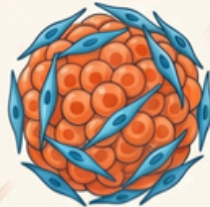
The automated, high-throughput nature of the platform significantly reduces the time and cost of drug discovery.

### THREE LEVELS OF MODEL COMPLEXITY



#### LEVEL 1: STANDARD MODEL

Consists of 3D cancer cells only; used to analyze the direct effect of a molecule on tumor cells.



#### LEVEL 2: COMPLEX MODEL

Integrates tumor fibroblasts (CAFs) to simulate the "stroma" and its role in therapeutic resistance.



#### LEVEL 3: ADVANCED MODEL

A multicellular environment including immune and vascular (endothelial) cells, critical for testing modern immunotherapies.



#### ETHICAL R&D

Provides a robust human-based alternative to animal testing, focusing on human-specific pathology.

Figure 1: Description of CTIONCOTEST™ Platform for Cancer Research

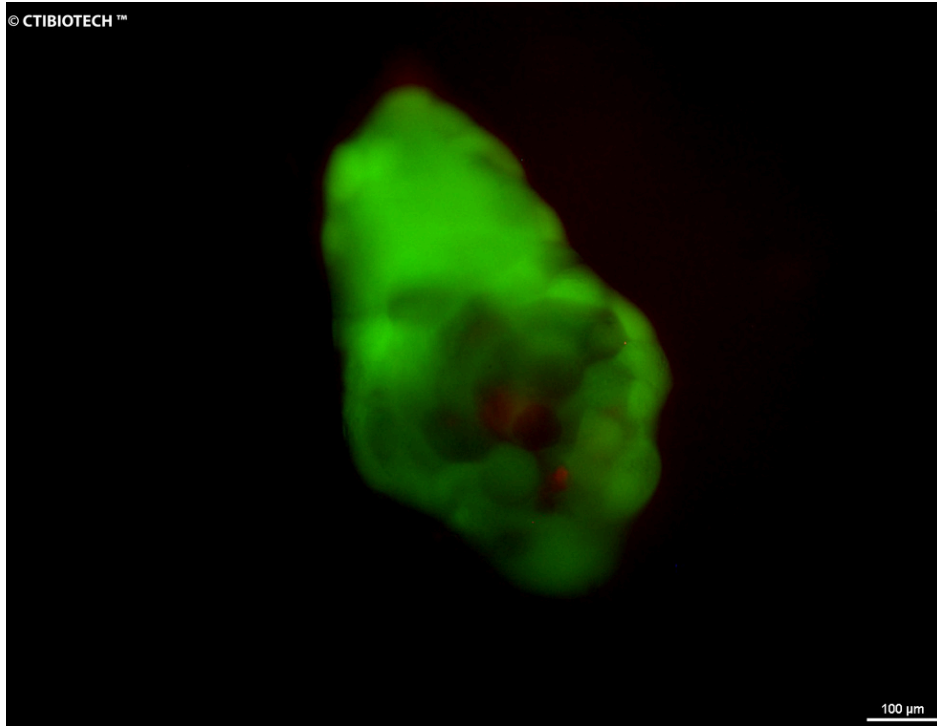


Figure 2: Fluorescence microscopy revealing high cell viability within a 3D bioprinted breast microtumor (Live/Dead assay)



Figure 3: Automated 3D bioprinting of pancreatic microtumors in a standardized 24-well plate format for drug testing.

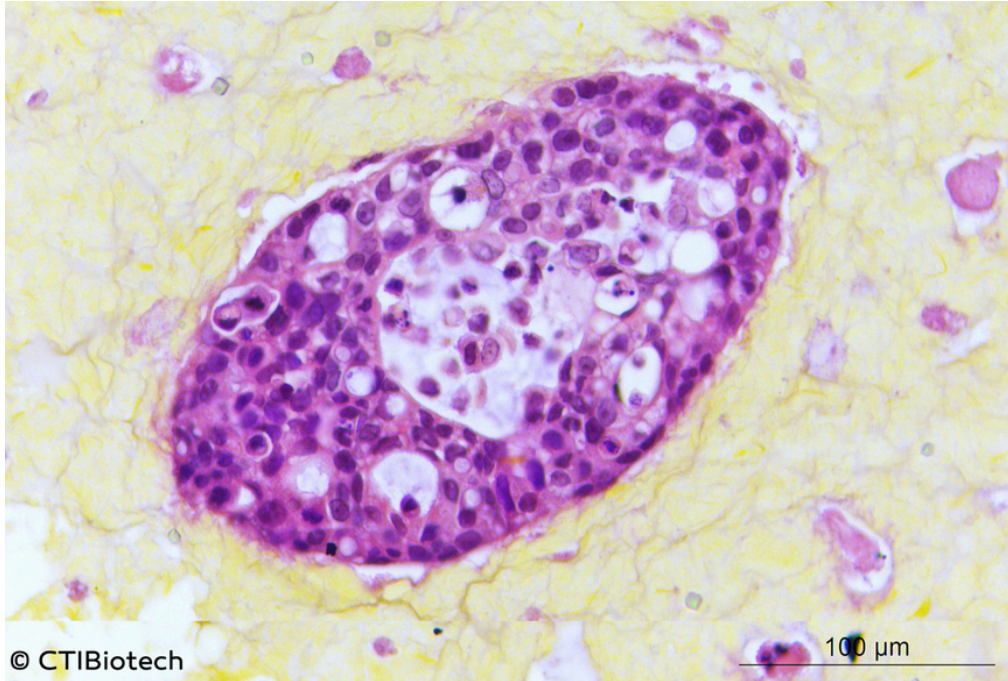


Figure 4: Histological characterization (HES staining) showing the architecture of a 3D bioprinted pancreatic

Note to Editors: High-resolution images and interviews with CTIBIOTECH™ executives are available upon request.

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