

## FluoRok launches with £3 million of funding to revolutionise the way fluorochemicals are produced

- *Founded by renowned fluorination expert Oxford Professor Véronique Gouverneur and Dr Gabriele Pupo with their combined decades of experience in fluorination chemistry, organic synthesis and catalysis.*

**Oxford, United Kingdom, 05 July 2023** – FluoRok, a deep-tech company developing revolutionary processes to access fluorochemicals in an efficient, safe, clean and sustainable way, today announces £3m of pre-seed funding from [Oxford Science Enterprises](#) (OSE).

FluoRok is pioneering a new method for the direct synthesis of high value fluorochemicals from fluorspar (CaF<sub>2</sub>). Its proprietary technology directly employs fluorinated waste material or naturally occurring fluorite mineral as a source, to access high-value compounds that are key to the world's energy transition, our global food supply, and our health.

Fluorochemicals are currently made using a centuries-old chemical process involving highly toxic, hazardous and difficult-to-handle hydrogen fluoride (HF). FluoRok's novel and disruptive proprietary technology changes this paradigm, enabling for the first time the bypassing of toxic HF production to directly manufacture fluorinated materials from raw minerals (fluorite, CaF<sub>2</sub>) or fluorinated waste streams. This innovative solution reduces energy requirements, lowers CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and enables significant progress towards net-zero in the fluorochemical industry. Additionally, intrinsic process safety facilitates the reshoring of fluorochemical manufacturing.

The new funding enables FluoRok to progress its groundbreaking technology which represents a radical shift for industrial processes, bringing fluorochemicals production to the 21st century by reinventing access to molecules that are key to our quality of life in areas such as agrochemistry, pharmaceuticals and energy storage.

**Dr Gabriele Pupo, FluoRok's CEO said,** "Until now, access to fluorochemicals has exclusively relied on a centuries-old, energy intensive and dangerous process requiring the production of toxic hydrofluoric acid. FluoRok is a game-changer and this new investment allows us to develop and scale our pioneering technology, expand the team and take a further step toward revolutionising the fluorochemicals industry. Our mission to create a safer, cleaner and better world fits perfectly with OSE's portfolio of innovators and disruptors tackling the world's toughest challenges and I'm looking forward to achieving great things together."

**George Todd, Investment Associate, Oxford Science Enterprises said,** "As an investor of companies innovating in their field, we are proud to back the incredible team at FluoRok. The company continues to make tremendous progress in the delivery of a disruptive technology that will change the way we produce fluorochemicals for the better, creating a safer and more sustainable path forward. We believe FluoRok is poised for significant progress and growth in the coming years and are excited to continue supporting the team as they scale the business."

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**About [FluoRok](#)**

FluoRok is a start-up company based in Oxford, UK and focused on fluorochemical R&D, manufacturing and licensing. It develops novel and transformational technologies to access fluorochemicals in an efficient, safe and sustainable way. Founded in 2022, the company builds on decades of research in the laboratories of Professor Véronique Gouverneur at the University of Oxford.

FluoRok is backed by Oxford Science Enterprises, an independent, billion-pound investment company, that funds transformational businesses via its unique partnership with the University of Oxford.

**About [Oxford Science Enterprises](#)**

Oxford Science Enterprises (OSE) is an independent, billion-pound investment company, created in 2015 to found, fund and build transformational businesses via its unique partnership with the University of Oxford, the world's #1 research university. This partnership enables OSE to work with the brightest academic minds tackling the world's toughest challenges and guarantees unrivalled access to their scientific research. In collaboration with its global network of entrepreneurs and advisers, OSE goes well beyond funding to shape and nurture these complex ideas into successful businesses.

Actively focused on a core portfolio of around 40 companies spanning three high-growth, high-impact sectors – Life Sciences, Health Tech, and Deep Tech – the company adopts a flexible, long-term investment approach, recognising the path from ground-breaking research to global markets takes time and resilience. To date, OSE has invested £0.5 billion in over 80 ambitious companies built on Oxford science.

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