Press release

PolaSight receives CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to improve tissue analysis during cancer surgery

St.Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, November 23, 2026 — The University of Bern spin-off PolaSight has obtained CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to advance a new imaging modality for cancer diagnostics. By analyzing fresh tissue in just 60 seconds without staining or chemical preparation, the medtech startup aims to give pathologists and surgeons rapid additional information when decisions must be made.

During cancer surgery, the surgeon often waits for a pathologist to examine tissue while the patient is still on the table. The standard method, the frozen section, requires freezing, cutting and staining the tissue. It takes around 20 minutes, can compromise the sample, and is hard to interpret for complex tissue.

PolaSight is developing PolaOne, an AI-powered imaging platform that uses polarized light to rapidly analyze fresh tissue, without staining, slide preparation or consumables. A scan takes about 60 seconds, leaves the tissue intact for further analysis, and produces standardized, quantitative images. Designed to fit existing pathology workflows, PolaOne gives pathologists additional information to support more consistent assessment.

The CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick will help PolaSight expand clinical studies with partner hospitals, strengthen the evidence for PolaOne, and prepare the regulatory steps toward market.

The founding team brings together CEO Roi Finish, CTO Davide Scandella, CSO Dr. Pablo M. Neila, and Prof. Raphael Sznitman.The team combines expertise in medical imaging, artificial intelligence, clinical technology development and medtech business building.

“Every stage at Venture Kick pushed us to sharpen our evidence, our path to market and our team. It taught us to turn a strong technology into a clear business, and gave us the visibility and credibility to take it further,” highlights co-founder CEO Roi Finish.



PolaSight team: CEO Roi Finish, CSO Pablo Neila, CTO Davide Scandella, and advisor Rapahel Sznitman

PolaSight's profile on Venture Kick

About Venture Kick

The Venture Kick philanthropic initiative provides more than 1 million in seed funding to Swiss startups and offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path toward building a winning business. Startups pitch to Venture Kick juries in three stages to obtain CHF 150,000, gain direct feedback, and access a network of 250 international investors. Winners of Venture Kick are eligible for an InnoBooster grant of CHF 150,000 and an additional CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund.

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 1,286 Swiss startup projects with CHF 103 million from private donors. Thanks to financial support, coaching, and networking with investors, this initiative has led to the emergence of 1,000+ thriving startup companies and the creation of 16,100+ jobs. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted investments of CHF 10.2 billion and represent 66 companies ranked in the Top100 Swiss Startups in 2025 (https://www.top100startups.swiss).

Venture Kick is an initiative by the Kick Foundation, supported by a private consortium and operated by Venturelab. The supporting foundations and private philanthropic partners include Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation ALCEA, Hauser-Stiftung, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Martin Haefner, Fondation ProTechno, ESA BIC Switzerland, Swisscom, Lichtsteiner Foundation, and Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation.

Find more information on venturekick.ch, with all startup projects supported by Venture Kick, and follow the success stories of our startups on LinkedIn.

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