

SAFRAN INVESTS IN AVNOS, AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION IN CO2 CAPTURE

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Safran, through Safran Corporate Ventures, has invested in Avnos Inc., a California-based startup specializing in CO2 capture from ambient air in a process called Direct Air Capture. The other investors in this funding round are NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, Shell Ventures, ConocoPhillips, Jet Blue Ventures, Envisioning Partners and Rusheen Capital Management. Direct Air Capture is a vital technology for decarbonizing the aviation sector, especially for the production of a class of synthetic aviation fuels called electrofuels, or e-fuels, which require CO2 and decarbonized hydrogen.

Éric Dalbiès, Executive Vice President for Strategy and Chief Technology Officer at Safran, commented: “Safran Corporate Ventures is playing a key role in identifying disruptive technologies that will help make air transport carbon neutral by 2050 and Safran’s investment in Avnos is a perfect example of this strategy.”

Will Kain, CEO of Avnos, said: “We are racing to scale-up HDAC technology to realize its impact on climate change and leverage its economic potential to align stakeholders. HDAC also creates a virtuous cycle for SAF producers by producing the feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel. This

funding round gives Avnos a solid base from which to accelerate our development.”

Founded in 2020, Avnos Inc. is developing a technology it calls Hybrid Direct Air Capture, which consists of capturing the low concentrations of CO₂ in ambient air. Avnos stands out for this innovative technology, which significantly reduces the energy used in the DAC process and, unlike rival technologies, does not consume any water. It works by circulating ambient air in contact with a first adsorbent material to extract the water, then a second adsorbent material, which captures the CO₂. The CO₂ is released from the material by changing the humidity conditions (called “moisture swing”). The HDAC process produces a gas mixture with a high concentration of CO₂ and has the advantage of recovering water for reuse.

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