



Dennisson Technologies raises \$1.6m to grow its 'artificial muscle'

Led by Outset Ventures and Icehouse Ventures, Dennisson Technologies has raised \$1.6m to bolster its team and progress their light triggered artificial muscle

Dennisson Technologies has raised \$1.6m, led by Icehouse Ventures, to grow and build its new 'artificial muscle'.

The startup has invented the proof of concept for an ultra lightweight smart material 'Auraflex', which contracts using light, not electricity. This 'artificial muscle' has major implications in the fast-growing world of haptics, where Dennisson's material can be used to produce a clothing-like exosuit, at far lower costs.

First cab off the rank is the VR industry, where Dennisson CEO and co-founder Anvil Serg Bañez sees the opportunity to drastically improve consumer experience.

"As it stands, haptic exosuits available in the market are cumbersome and cost prohibitive for consumers. With Auraflex our aim is to simplify the manufacturing process, cutting down time, size, and overall cost," said Anvil.

Recent R&D breakthroughs have seen the 50 microns thin Auraflex able to lift 10,000x its own weight, and contract within 700 milliseconds of exposure to light. These properties offer obvious benefits in VR and robotics, which are hampered by bulky and expensive base materials.

"Anvil and Kim combine a disruptive vision for performance materials with technical excellence. The team have made tremendous progress in a short time, having demonstrated the potential of thin, lightweight, materials to exceed the lifting capacity of human muscle. We are extremely excited to see the many applications and solutions made possible with this fascinating innovation," said Sean Simpson, Founder of LanzaTech and Outset Ventures Investment Committee Member.

Among the most important applications of the material for Anvil is its long-term potential to evolve prosthetics.

Anvil's father Dennis, the company's namesake, has had life-long mobility problems from his childhood polio.

"I want to help my father walk properly. Since university my goal has been to bring this technology to help those who need it most; my father, and the people he represents," said Anvil Bañez.



The capital raise has seen participation from all corners of the ecosystem, including Outset Ventures, Icehouse Ventures, Startmate, K1W1, Even Capital, AngelHQ, Edale Capital (Australia), as well as various Angel investors.

Icehouse Ventures' Robbie Paul says that not only has Dennisson's R&D progress been impressive, the pair are among a rare breed of natural-born founders.

"Anvil and Kimberly are exceptionally backable and share many common traits with the likes of Craig from Halter, Levi from Partly, and Brooke from Sharesies. They're bright, working on an important problem, and learning very quickly"

Dennisson was co-founded by husband-wife duo Anvil and Kimberly Bañez, who met while studying engineering. The funding has allowed the co-founders to add further expertise to the team, with three recent hires, as they aim toward stage 6 of the technology readiness scale by the end of 2023.

About Dennisson Technologies

Dennisson is developing a novel photon-activated, artificial muscle platform that is a lightweight, space-saving, and cost-effective alternative to conventional motors and actuators. This can be applied to a wide range of applications from VR Haptics & soft robotics, to assistive exosuits