

Companion Spine Closes \$60.1 million Series A with \$5.0 Million Top-Off

- **The Series A and top-off round was led by Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC, an American single-family office holding company dedicated to financing the spine, orthopedics and healthcare industry.**
- **The Series A round will enable Companion to successfully launch its product portfolio into new Global markets, achieve Global revenue growth, and advance its FDA PMA strategy for the Aperius and DIAM for lumbar spinal stenosis (“LSS”) & degenerative disc disease (“DDD”).**

Bordeaux, France, New York (New York), and Manchester (Connecticut), March 23rd, 2023 at 9.30 am ET – Companion Spine LLC, the French-American specialist in interventional spine pain-management surgery, today announced its successful closing of its \$60.1 million Series A funding round with a final closing of a \$5.0 million top-off bringing the total in Series A to \$60.1 million.

Formed by Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC in 2020, Companion Spine was created to address the two largest indications of the overall spine market: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis (LSS) and Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD), without the requirement of spine fusion surgery.

Companion Spine focuses on interventional spine pain treatment with revisable, minimally invasive, implants, focused on motion preservation, and precision diagnostics to allow for comprehensive spine health through offering a total spine care continuum approach for patients, spine pain specialists, treatment centers, and payors.

The completion of the Series A round will enable Companion Spine to successfully introduce both DIAM™, Companion Spine’s main product, and LISA®, the device obtained through the acquisition of the French company Backbone earlier in 2023, into new Global territories, accelerate worldwide sales growth, and advance the US FDA PMA submission process for the APERIUS™ and DIAM™.

The top-off round was led by Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC (“VB”), Viscogliosi Brothers Watermark Holdings, LLC (“VBW”) and Epimed International, Inc (“Epimed”).

VBW is a proprietary holding company of VB, dedicated to creating shareholder value through capitalizing on regulatory driven high-barriers of entry, company building expertise, and a focus on increasing predictable cash flows in the \$500B low-correlated MedTech innovation universe. VBW was founded by VB, Watermark Investments, and Monaut Partners.

Epimed is a development, design, manufacturing and distribution company focusing on standard and unique solutions for physicians with an emphasis on outcomes and safety. The company is owned by the Racz Family. Gabor B. Racz, M.D., DABPM, FIPP, DABIPP, is an internationally recognized specialist in the sub-specialty of spine pain management and known as the *"The Father of Spine Pain Management."* One of his three sons, Tibor Racz, MD, is an anesthesiologist and pain management physician who learned from his father and has close to 4,000 pain procedures and achieved double board certification throughout his 30-year career. Tibor Racz, MD, is one of several "Master Companions" of Companion Spine's Master Companion Medical Board ("MCMB"). Currently, Epimed continues its commitment to helping patients navigating through their pain, improving functionality and livelihood through cutting-edge medical care and service.

Erick Cloix, CEO and co-founder of Companion Spine, said: *"The final closing of the capital raise supports our comprehensive solutions portfolio that precisely addresses, over time, the different stages and the multiple origins of back pain. Our unique portfolio of technologies enables interventional, earlier, safer, and scalable treatment to match the exact patient condition as it is today, or will be tomorrow, and after tomorrow."*

Anthony G. Viscogliosi, co-founder and Executive Chairman of Companion Spine and Principal at Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC, commented: *"The VB investment philosophy is to skate where the puck will be, not where it is right now. This defines that VB invests in and leads new directions in healthcare."*

Viscogliosi continued: *"Patients and payors all want to avoid spine fusion surgery. Transformation is underway in the spine surgery industry -- shifting to interventional spine care from old school fusion. Today, in spine surgery, the principal method of treatment is fusion. Tomorrow, the shift will be towards interventional spine pain treatment avoiding fusion wherever possible. Interventional spine pain treatment provides a better, safer, and more effective solution to reach the patient when they are earlier in their disease progression, improving quality of life, while reducing the cost of care and avoiding fusion surgery. Companion Spine is aligned with the patient, physician, provider, payor, policy maker, and producer by providing a set of minimally invasive, out-patient focused, tissue sparing, bone-conserving, safe for the patient, easy to use solution for the physician, lower cost solution to the payor, and most importantly better for the patient."*

Racz Family added through their representative: *"In partnership with physicians around the world, we strive to adapt and innovate for the advancement of patient care. When presented with the opportunity to join forces with the team assembled at Companion Spine, it was clear that our history prepared us to assist in this critical need for comprehensive spine solutions."*

Mr. John J. Viscogliosi, Chairman of the Board of Viscogliosi Brothers Watermark Holdings, LLC, concluded: *"We are excited to be a part of Companion Spine's already successful journey as we are committed to investing in the pioneering ventures of the neuromusculoskeletal space that are led by exceptional leadership without exception."*

About Companion Spine:

Founded in 2020 in New-York, United States, and Bordeaux, France, Companion Spine is a company specialized in the diagnosis and interventional and surgical treatment of spine conditions. Companion Spine's comprehensive system of technologies and solutions target degenerative disc disease and lumbar spinal stenosis, two of the most common indications for back pain worldwide. Companion Spine is developing a portfolio of medical solutions that will allow back pain specialists to offer their patients earlier, effective and reversible alternatives to spinal fusion, the current standard surgical approach and strategy to address the most severe back pain.

For more information, please visit: www.companion-spine.com

About Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC:

Viscogliosi Brothers, LLC (VB) was established by Marc R. Viscogliosi, John J. Viscogliosi, and Anthony G. Viscogliosi in 1999 as the first venture capital/private equity and merchant banking firm dedicated to the neuromusculoskeletal/orthopedics sector of the healthcare industry. VB is headquartered in New York City. Today, VB is an independent firm with a mission to create, build and finance companies founded on innovations that are uniquely focused on life changing neuromusculoskeletal/orthopedic technologies globally. VB has founded, invested in, and built more than 35 companies in the sector. VB specializes in merchant banking activities in the neuromusculoskeletal industry as a full life cycle investor, investing in all stages of a company from inception through growth capital and IPO or sale to a strategic buyer, all the while helping hundreds of thousands of people lead better lives through the orthopedic and spinal innovations developed, marketed, and sold by the companies VB has assisted in financing. VB has effected 18 exits over its 23 years generating more than \$2.5 billion in capital returned to its lenders, partners, and itself.

For more information, please visit: www.vbllc.com

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