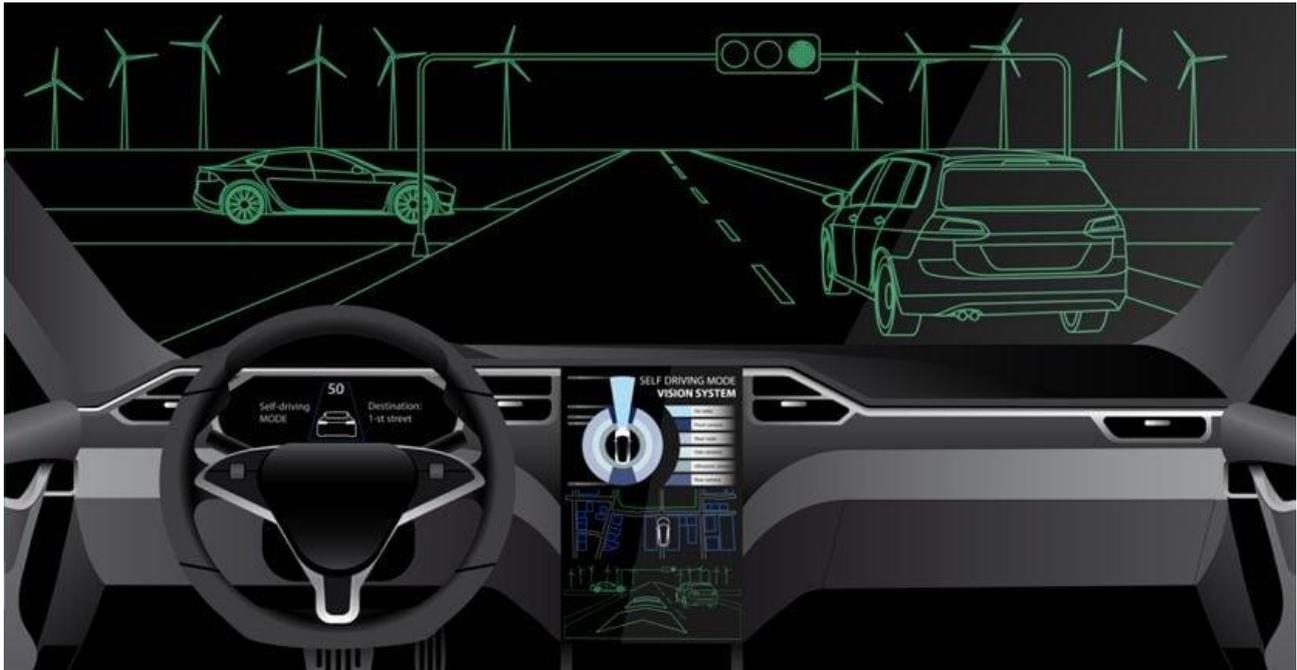


Health

Eye4nir's infrared eye closes a 600 thousand euro seed

December 16, 2021



The spin-off of the Politecnico di Milano Eye4nir, a few months after its establishment, completes the first seed round, reaching 600 thousand euros with the investment of the Poli360 fund managed by 360 Capital and Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer managed by Eureka! Venture Sgr.

The resources will be used to develop Eye4nir's innovative technology, which allows to simultaneously detect electromagnetic radiation both in the visible and near infrared wavelengths with a single sensor device (photo-detector); the latter called Short-Wave-Infrared (Swir) conventionally embraces wavelengths ranging from 1 micron to 2 micron.

The technology developed by Eye4nir offers numerous applications, to see what escapes the human eye, allowing to acquire images in conditions of poor visibility: nowadays, while the photo-detectors capable of detecting the radiation emitted in the lengths of visible wave are based on silicon and are present in many everyday objects (such as smartphones or vision systems in cars), the Swir imaging technology is scarcely exploited compared to the opportunity it offers. Swir light reflected from an object carries information about its composition, enabling numerous applications in the automotive, healthcare, industrial automation and quality control industries.

Eye4nir was born as a development of a scientific project carried out by the research team for semiconductors based on silicon-germanium alloys (SiGe) of the Politecnico di Milano and by the team of optics and non-linear optoelectronics of the Roma Tre University. The startup team, led by CEO Andrea Ballabio, PhD in Physics at the Politecnico di Milano, thus secured the intellectual property by presenting two patents, thanks to the support of the Technology Transfer Office of the Politecnico di Milano and Roma Tre which hold the ownership

respectively at 60% and 40%.

Eye4nir was also awarded the call for ideas Switch2product of the Politecnico di Milano thanks to which it received the first investment with which the Technology Readiness Level of the technology was increased up to the current level 4. The team was also awarded as winner of two important competitions for startups such as StartCup Lombardia 2020 and PNI2020. The strong reduction in production costs guaranteed by the innovative technology developed within Eye4nir will make the Swir imaging technology available for different applications that will be analyzed both from the technological point of view and from that of market prospects: industrial inspections, quality control and autonomous driving are the first areas of interest.

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