

## SA company picked for elite global medtech accelerator

*Alamo City biotech among 50 companies to be part of international cohort*

As Bluegrass Vascular Technologies Inc. looks to further commercialize its initial medical device in the U.S., the San Antonio-based biotech is gaining priceless recognition and exposure on a global scale.

Bluegrass Vascular, which moved from Kentucky to San Antonio in 2014, is one of 50 entities chosen to participate in the 2021 MedTech Innovator Accelerator Cohort, the largest program of its kind in the world.

“Being selected was a quite an honor,” Bluegrass Vascular President and CEO [Gabriele Niederauer](#) said.

Only 4% of applicants were invited to participate in the four-month showcase and accelerator program, which features some of the world’s most transformative device, diagnostic and digital health technologies. Bluegrass Vascular's innovative technology was validated by independent judges with deep medtech expertise.

The goal of the cohort is to “find the most promising medical innovations and make sure they actually reach the patients who need them,” MedTech Innovator CEO [Paul Grand](#) said.

The program will provide participating companies with resources and mentorship. The startups will also receive international visibility and access to leading manufacturers, providers, investors and other industry stakeholders.

Bluegrass Vascular’s initial product, the Surfacar Inside-Out Access Catheter System, is now in use in the U.S., but for the company to fully penetrate the American commercial market, it needs a reimbursement code from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. The company applied for such a code more than a year ago.

In the interim, the Alamo City biotech will look to make the most of its participation with an elite global cohort. Niederauer said the selection process began in January, with 1,100 applicants from more than 50 countries being narrowed to 195 candidates that were invited to pitch to corporate partners and judges. Bluegrass Vascular presented multiple times at a midstage company pitch event on May 6.

Selected companies will collaborate with MedTech Innovator’s partners, participating in exclusive virtual networking events and interactive workshops. The program will culminate in late September when all 50 companies will present in showcase panels and gain access to exclusive partnering and roundtables.

“We continue to receive a lot of interest in our leading product,” Niederauer said. “We also are seeking additional financing to support our commercialization efforts.”

Source: <https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2021/06/17/bluegrass-vascular-chosen-for-medtech-accelerator.html?s=print>

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