



Press Release – September 27, 2021

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## Bluephage launches crowdfunding campaign and raises 98% of its initial goal in the first week

- **Bluephage launches a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to launch its patented technology, licensed by the University of Barcelona, for microbiological water testing kits to help prevent waterborne diseases**
- **With an initial target of €800,000, the campaign is hosted on the Crowdcube platform and will be active until October 27, with a new target of €950,000**

Barcelona, September 27, 2021 - **Bluephage**, the first biotechnology company specializing in microbiological water analysis to become **BCorp**, is finalizing details to launch of its **Rapid Kit**. This revolutionary method will help the professional water industry quickly and efficiently detect bacteriophage viruses, called **coliphages**, in water.

From the [Crowdcube](#) platform, the European private equity marketplace, Bluephage has set a target of €950,000 to raise awareness of this technology and expand its distribution network to wider markets, thus ensuring safe water for a better world.

Founded in 2016 as a spin-off from the [University of Barcelona](#) by the renowned researchers of the [Research Group on Health-Related Water Microbiology \(MARS\)](#), Bluephage is now in the final stages of preparation for the launch of Rapid Kit, the patented microbiological testing kit developed at the University of Barcelona. **With this revolutionary proposal, the company aims to enter the €1.4 billion water testing market (2022).**

In 2020, the [European Commission](#) recognized coliphages as a new viral indicator within the water. As a result, **coliphage-free water can be considered microbiologically safe for human consumption**. Bluephage's patented and disruptive technology enables detection of coliphages within 6 hours, a critical factor in a global context where rapid testing can help save



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lives, and where climate change is a key factor in the increasing development of regulations that intensifies safety controls on drinking water and water for human use.

Over the last decade, interest in coliphage control has grown, and other [international regulations and guidelines](#) have approved the use of these bacteriophages as viral indicators in biosolids, groundwater, recreational water, reclaimed water, UV integrity and membranes, direct potable water reuse, and aquaculture.

In the last year, Bluephage has moved from focusing on R&D to commercializing a product that easily and quickly tests water for coliphages. Since its founding, Bluephage has raised over €1.3 million through two rounds of private and public funding and grants. It is now in the process of expanding its distributor network internationally, with a presence already in **12 European countries, Singapore, South Africa, and Georgia**. Bluephage's work in this area has already been recognized by Water Europe, which has awarded the company its "SME Innovation Award 2020".

Now, Bluephage is launching a crowdfunding campaign with the support of Crowdcube, the European marketplace for private company shares, which represents companies with social, environmental and economic purposes that have a positive impact on their community. This is the case of BCorp companies, Clean and Green companies and Fintech companies.

### **About Bluephage**

[Bluephage](#) is a biotech company specializing in products and services to analyze coliphages as viral indicators in water, food, and biosolids, launched as a spin-off company in 2016 from the University of Barcelona. Using an accelerated, patent-protected coliphage indicator test, our microbiological water quality testing products detect coliphages, a viral indicator used to alert of potentially pathogenic viruses that cause severe waterborne diseases. Our product line offers the fastest and easiest to use coliphage detection method currently available on the market for environmental water testing.

The Bluephage team, consisting of world-renowned experts in basic and applied microbiology and virology in water analysis methods, draws on more than 35 years of knowledge and experience



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developed at the University of Barcelona within the MARS (Microbiology of Water-Related to Health) group.

### **About Crowdcube**

The European marketplace for shares in private companies, Crowdcube enables entrepreneurs to raise finance with the added benefit of being backed by their community. For investors, Crowdcube provides a way to hand-pick a stake in an innovative business they believe in that traditionally would have been restricted to professional investors.

Since it was founded in 2011, Crowdcube has completed over 1,140 fundraises. With over 1.1 million members, a total of £1bn has been invested on the platform to date. Businesses that have successfully raised funds with Crowdcube include BrewDog, Camden Town Brewery (acquired by AB INBev), carwow, JustPark, eCar Club (acquired by Europcar), Feedr (acquired by Compass Group), Freetrade (primaries and secondaries), Mindful Chef (acquired by Nestle), Monzo, Pod Point (acquired by EDF), Revolut, and Nutmeg (acquired by JP Morgan).