



Clinical trials are underway: CEO Daniela Marino (left) and CCO Fabienne Hartmann-Fritsch

MACHINE-MADE SKIN

Hundreds of thousands of burn victims have been given hope, thanks to Daniela Marino and her team.

CUTISS, ZÜRICH / **SECTOR:** BIOTECH / **FOUNDATION:** 2017

EMPLOYEES: 18 / **CONTACT:** WWW.CUTISS.SWISS

Brussels seems to understand what Daniela Marino has to offer. The EU supported the young biotechnologist's research at the University of Zurich in 2011 with EUR 9 million, and now another subsidy of EUR 9 million, and now another subsidy of EUR 2.5 million has been added. With this money – and about CHF 8 million from investors – Marino is working on a project that promises a better life for countless burn victims: her intention is to grow palm-sized pieces of skin from a few skin cells.

At the moment, running phase II clinical trials supported by Wyss Zurich are underway at four hospitals, with the aim of proving that the artificial skin from Cutiss really relieves suffering. The medical need is high. "Burn victims," says CEO Marino, "suffer not only physically, but also emotionally." Facial disfigurement often causes more suffering than just chronic pain and endless operations.

In parallel to the clinical trials, preparation of automation of the production process is also underway. In November, Cutiss' R&D centre will open in the Bio-Technopark Schlieren. "We have found the right partners in the field of mechanical engineering and now know what the requirements are," says Marino. If everything goes to plan, denovoSkin™ should receive marketing approval by 2022.