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New Zealand's brain-tech startup Neumic Therapeutics seeks $1 M in pre-seed investment

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Neumic's pre-seed round follows $19 million in publicly funded research, including a $10 million Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Endeavour programme running until September 2027



New Zealand-based brain-technology startup Neumic Therapeutics is seeking approximately $1 million in pre-seed investment to compete in an emerging global industry attracting backing from some of Silicon Valley's biggest names.

Neumic Therapeutics is commercialising more than 20 years of neuroscience research at the University of Otago, supported by $19 million in public research funding. Its technology uses precisely targeted ultrasound to influence brain activity and potentially deliver medication to specific areas of the brain without surgery.

Having successfully developed and tested its core acoustic technology, Neumic is raising capital to advance an integrated wearable device and has signed a Heads of Agreement with the University of Otago, establishing a pathway towards an exclusive licence to the underlying intellectual property.

Neumic is developing a platform combining two distinct approaches to treating the brain. The first, neuromodulation, uses low-intensity ultrasound to influence specific neural circuits without surgery or medication. The second uses ultrasound to trigger the release of medication from specially designed carriers, including liposomes, at selected locations in the brain.

Combining these capabilities could give clinicians greater control over where and when treatments act, potentially improving effectiveness while reducing unwanted effects elsewhere in the body. For conditions such as Parkinson's disease, where medication can relieve symptoms but also cause debilitating involuntary movements, that precision could be particularly valuable.

The company's first planned clinical application is severe tinnitus, a condition characterised by persistent ringing, buzzing or other sounds that can significantly affect sleep, concentration and wellbeing. Neumic is developing an initial clinic-based treatment using focused ultrasound to influence the neural circuits associated with tinnitus, targeting its first human clinical trial in 2028, subject to development, safety and regulatory requirements. Its longer-term ambition is to develop wearable treatments for Parkinson's disease, using focused ultrasound to control precisely where and when dopamine-acting medication is released in the brain.

Neumic co-founder and CEO Professor John Reynolds says the emergence of well-funded international competitors is encouraging. "We're seeing serious investment going into focused ultrasound internationally and that's exciting because we've been working on the underlying science here in New Zealand for more than 20 years."