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Joining us today is Benjamin Lightburn the CEO and Co-Founder of Filament Health that trades on our OTCQB Venture Market under the ticker "FLHLF." Based in Vancouver Filament is a natural psychedelic drug discovery and technology company. Filament engages in natural extraction technology commercialization utilizing its intellectual property portfolio in-house, g and p facility and health Canada dealers' license for all natural psychedelics. Ben, thanks so much for joining us today.

Benjamin Lightburn

Thank you Cecilia my pleasure.

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Absolutely so Ben to start, tell us about your background and your path to the foundation of Filament.

Benjamin Lightburn

So it's ah it's an interesting story. Um, basically just by coincidence I fell into this world of natural extraction and commercializing high value compounds sourced from the natural world. I really got a really happen just by getting ah a summer job as an undergraduate student working for a company that was making anti-cancer compounds and extracting them from a variety of different sources and the rest is history I left that company I got a business degree I joined another company. At that company. We actually commercialized novel extraction technology for the manufacture of various kinds of dietary supplements. Um, we sold that company in the summer of 2018 and that happened kind of just at the beginning of the. Rise of the of the or the renaissance of the psychedelics industry and you know what struck me and some of the colleagues from that company that we sold was that there really didn't seem to be a lot of serious players manufacturing psychedelics naturally and. We knew from our experience making these kinds of natural extracts for our for our whole careers that consumers really would prefer natural products in all aspects of their life and more importantly that if there was no natural option part of the part of the psychedelics offering. That you know a certain percentage of users who would feel much more comfortable with ah with a natural option maybe hesitant to to try in the first place and therefore overall

adoption and uptake and therefore the ability for the psychedelic substance is to help people might be less. So. You know that's really why we started filament was to to give people ah a chance to have a natural psychedelic rather than a synthetic 1 in the future when they're approved as medicines and potentially through other forms of distribution. Um, and that's really what you know, informed all our decisions in in making a company and getting us to where we are today.

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And so expand a little bit on that about your mission. Um, and talk about Filament's unique and nontraditional approach to treat mental Health disorders.

Benjamin Lightburn

Sure. So, you know as a psychedelics company. we're you know we're very much in the belief that these kinds of these psychedelic substances can be part of the solution to the mental health crisis that that's facing society. Um, you know something like 1 in five North Americans will experience a mental health condition in any given year and you know by the age of forty. Um and about fifty percent of North Americans will have experienced and some kind of mental health um a condition and. We also know that current treatment options are ineffective. They're poorly tolerated. They're expensive. Um, they're just very unpopular and we're talking in large part ah about a class of compounds called ssri which are the predominant. Anti-depression therapeutics available today. So we believe very strongly but based on the clinical evidence that we have at our disposal and based at based on many of the exciting developments in the psychedelics industry that psychedelics can be this kind of. Transformative Paradigm shift for a whole new class of anti-depression medications as well as treatments for um, for other mental health conditions. But what sets us apart like I alluded to is that we're firm believers that. It's best to look to nature for inspiration for these kinds of compounds rather than recreate them artificially in the lab. Um, it's important to note that when you make a ah magic mushroom extract for instance, that magic mushrooms are where psilocybin comes from. Um, when you make a magic mushroom extract. You actually extract much more than just psilocybin you're extracting other compounds like sillicin bayocystin norbeocystin many other compounds that after all nature did evolve to be present in those mushrooms.

And over time we actually seek to prove that perhaps this compound this this natural combination of compounds might actually prove to be more efficacious than a single isolated synthetic Psilocybin. So really That's what said? we. We do not think that that's a very radical view. Um, you only have to look to other very closely related markets like for instance, the cannabis market where you know it's it's accepted as the gospel truth that natural is far better than synthetic. Um, but that's not yet the case in Psychedelics. So that's kind of what.

What sets us apart and gives us a very unique approach within the psychedelics industry. Um, which itself is a unique approach within the mental health care industry.

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And so Ben how do you give comfort and you know assurance that you know for your audience that wants to perhaps experiment in psychedelics for certain treatments.

Benjamin Lightburn

Well, um, unfortunately I can't um, condone the use of what unfortunately remains an illegal drug. But what I that I can say is that there does seem to be. A lot of evidence. Um, that ah that that that comes from FDA approved clinical trials that these kinds of substances can alleviate the suffering of many um, we only have to look to the largest psilocybin trial. Which was ah the results of which were announced last week which did show that um Psilocybin is approximately twice as effective as a leading anti-depression drug which is very exciting um should be said. However, that. All of these trials and all of these studies currently to date have all been done with synthetic psilocybin and that people on the street or the general public. You know when they're consuming these substances themselves. It's certainly not synthetic.

Psilocybin that they're using. It's natural psilocybin and natural mushrooms and it's important to you know, give a note of caution about the use of the of the raw substances such as magic mushrooms and that's because of the you know. High variability of the potency. The strength of the psilocybin content in those magic mushrooms, different kinds of mushrooms can have up to four or 5 times the amount of psilocybin from others. So when you when you get a magic mushroom. Um, you really have no idea how much psilocybin is in

there. And because Psilocybin is so powerful. Um, you know, ah you know plus or minus fifty percent can have a huge effect on your experience. Let alone plus or minus five hundred percent right? So it's very important that that people keep that in mind if they choose to use um naturally sourced psychedelics. And really, that's what filament. That's what the problem. That's the problem that filament is trying to address by actually making stable known concentrated standardized doses of these natural substance. We. We keep the exact. Um. Ratio and composition of the naturally present compounds that you would find in the magic mushroom but we purify them and standardize them in such a way so that you can have an exactly known dose every single time and.

Maybe before long we will see some kind of a over the counter or recreational market like we do with Cannabis right now and you know in in in that version of the world I think would be very good but we you know obviously even more important to have stable and standardized amounts you know if we have. Fast forward to a world where you can have you know edible psychedelics or chocolates or gummies or and earth or products like that.

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Yeah, so as you mentioned the regulatory you know hurdles that you're going through what other Milestones and partnerships do anticipate for filament in the coming years.

Benjamin Lightburn

For now. Um, basically the only legal thing to do with psychedelics in North America is do pharmaceutical drug development and that's what we're doing. Um, we recently? um. And announced that the FDA actually authorized our um, ah botanical drug so botanical psychedelic drug candidates to go into a human clinical trial for the very first time and that was very exciting because it's the first time the FDA has authorized a naturally sourced psychedelic. To go into a human clinical trial and it's the first time that um soloin which is the active drug of the pro- drug psilocybin was it was allowed to go right into a human clinical trial. So as we move forward? Um, we're excited about the possibility of. Partnering with other companies and researchers and we have a ah few such discussions ongoing and hopefully before long we'll have um, some more details to share. Um, but because we have our own in-house

manufacturing and our own in-house platform of technology. It does. Lend itself very well to partnering with others and supplying them with psilocybin and other naturally extracted ah psychedelic drug candidates. In addition, the milestones that we can hope to achieve over the next little while are related to pharmaceutical development of our own candidates. So this will be. Announcements related to patient dosing right? So it would be first time a natural dose of psychedelics was administered in the clinical trial and hopefully good data showing that your salocin candidate is preferable or or therapeutically more. Advantageous than our Psilocybin. So lots of exciting news to come in the next coming months and years.

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Filament began trading on the OTCQB Venture Market in October of this year and 2021 is also traded on the NEO exchange in Canada. So how does cross trading on the OTCQB Market enhance your investor strategy in the US and internationally.

Benjamin Lightburn

Well I think cross-trading on the OTCQB has really allowed us to expand our access into the into the American market, coming from a you know a lesser known Canadian exchange. It was a bit hard to be convincing in the United States now that we're on the OTCQB we're seeing volumes picking up. We're seeing interest picking up and in conjunction with some very good announcements coming out of the company. Um, we're seeing a very receptive audience to the United States so we're all in all, very pleased to be on the OTCQB as well as remain listed on the NEO exchange in Canada.

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Well Ben it's been a pleasure talking with you. Thanks so much for your time today, Filament Health trades on the symbol "FLHLF" on our OTCQB Venture Market.

Benjamin Lightburn

You're very welcome. It's my pleasure.

**This is an autogenerated transcript and may contain typos.*