



Carvolix Cath lab. Credit: Carvolix

Affluent becoming Carvolix after acquisitions

By [Shani Alexander](#) (/authors/599-shani-alexander)

Jan. 14, 2026

Affluent Medical SAS (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/711278-affluent-medical-focuses-on-commercialization-after-edwards-deal>) is becoming Carvolix after it entered into binding agreements to acquire Caranx Medical SAS (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/721963-caranx-medical-gets-fda-nod-for-tavr-software-tavipilot-soft>) for €16.6 million (US\$19.34 million) and Artedrone SAS for €11.4 million. The aim is to create an integrated med tech company which will focus on revolutionizing cardiac valve replacement and stroke treatment through AI-driven autonomous mini-robots and innovative implants.

The acquisition of the companies will be financed through the issuance of new Affluent shares, with the deal expected to close by the end of January.

“This is an opportunity to support the vision we have of creating a European med-tech company that revolutionizes cardiovascular and stroke treatments,” said Sebastien Ladet, designated CEO of Carvolix.

Ladet emphasized that the vision is driven by Truffle Capital which has a history of building startups in biotech and med tech by combining multiple technologies. Affluent itself was started this way many years ago. The same model was adopted with Abivax SA (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/702110-abivax-gains-us-listing-pads-coffers-with-236m-in-nasdaq-ipo>), which Truffle founded.

“By bringing three companies’ technologies together, we can empower interventional cardiologists in the cath lab to replace cardiac valves and treat strokes,” said Philippe Pouletty, founder of Carvolix, Abivax, and CEO of Truffle.



Aix-en-Provence, France-based Affluent currently provides solutions across cardiology and urology. Its devices include Kalios, an adjustable ring to repair the mitral valve; Epygon (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/695524-affluent-medical-welcomes-initial-success-from-first-clinical-implantation-of-its-biomimetic-transcatheter-mitral-valve>), a biomimetic heart valve; and Artus (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/694614-affluent-raises-14m-to-ramp-development-of-urinary-incontinence-mitral-valve-products>), an electronically activated sphincter to treat urinary incontinence in both men and women.

As for Caranx, of Nice, France, it developed the Tavipilot Soft to allow more cardiologists to perform TAVR. The software tool is easy-to-use, driven by AI and tracks in real-time anatomical and instrument landmarks. Tavipilot Soft has been approved by the U.S. FDA and will be launched this quarter.

Caranx is also working on the Tavipilot Robot, an autonomous robot for transcatheter heart valve implantation.

Carvolix designated CEO Sebastien Ladet

Paris-based Artedrone is developing an autonomous robotic solution for stroke treatments. The technology relies on therapeutic microrobots controlled by a magnetic guidance device.

The consolidation of these companies into Carvolix will create a company for the 21st century interventional cardiologist. It will leverage micro-robotics, AI, image guidance, catheter and valve technologies to help to democratize complex, life-saving procedures.

Carvolix: Like the cockpit of an airplane

Ladet highlighted that there is a common clinical unmet need for cardiac valve replacement and stroke treatment. Currently, access to advanced interventions remains limited, with only 17% of patients in need of transcatheter aortic valve replacement receiving treatment annually, 4% for mitral valve repair, and only 5% of ischemic stroke victims globally receive mechanical thrombectomy. He attributes this to the complexity of the procedures, steep training curves and a limited number of interventional experts.

To address this, Carvolix is combining AI, robotics and implants to create a platform “that looks like a cockpit of an airplane,” where most of the activity is guided autonomously,” explained Ladet. “With Carvolix, we are looking to create the same thing,” he said.

“The interventional cardiologist knows how to maneuver a catheter, they know how to navigate the vascular anatomy. And then if we augment with the robot and the AI to navigate through the complexity of the brain, then suddenly we can give access to patients to be treated rapidly by the numerous interventional cardiologists to perform stroke treatments without having them train for many years. So, with this, we can really democratize access to procedures to replace valves and treat strokes,” added Ladet.

Spinning off and funding

Currently, there are six products across the three companies. The plan is to spin off Artus, the sphincter to treat urinary incontinence, currently in clinical trials. Additionally, Edwards Lifesciences Inc. (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/709999-edwards-invests-15m-in-affluents-heart-products>) in 2024 struck three deals totaling €15 million with Affluent to gain access to its mitral valve technology. The deals included an option to acquire Affluent’s subsidiary Kephalius, which makes the Kalios, and the option could be exercised in 2026.

Carvolix will therefore be focused on robotics, AI and valve implants. The leadership team will include Liane Teplitsky, the current CEO of Artedrone, who will become chair of the board of directors, and Jorgen Hansen, CEO of Caranx, as chief of AI and Robotics. They will drive synergy across development, manufacturing and commercialization of the company’s products.

To fund the transformation, Affluent launched a financing round to raise up to €30 million. The first tranche of the financing has been secured from Truffle and Edwards, which invested €5 million each. Ladet noted that Edwards is supportive of the vision of creating a company for the interventional cardiologist of the 21st century, empowering them and driving access.

The first tranche of the financing will support clinical and regulatory programs for all Carvolix devices, including the launch of the Tavipilot software in the U.S., negotiating a strategic agreement with an industrial player to speed up the clinical trials and marketing of Artus, first in human for the robotic platform for stroke treatment and the ongoing development and clinical activities of Epygon.

Carvolix expects to secure additional funds from several international investors and also expects to extend its cash runway through the proceeds generated from a deal for Artus.

The company plans to list on Nasdaq in 2027, market conditions permitting. The objective though is to continue to run Carvolix from Europe and to keep the commercial rights on the continent. But at the same time, find partners in the U.S. and Asia to drive commercialization in those regions.

Carvolix believes that its products will be targeting a \$23 billion addressable market by 2030 and saving patients’ lives.

