

Carmat hits the big time



[Elizabeth Cairns](#)

It has been a [long, hard road](#), but Carmat has finally become a revenue-generating company. The first commercial implant of its Aeson artificial heart, CE marked in December as a means to keep a patient with end-stage heart failure alive until they can receive a transplant, has gone ahead in Naples, Italy. The device has an estimated price of €160,000 (\$188,000), and Carmat expects around a dozen European medical centres, most of them in Germany, to be commercially active by the end of 2021. Thus, even if each centre only does a single implant the company's revenues for this year could be well into the millions. Encouraging developments are occurring on the other side of the Atlantic, too: the [US feasibility trial](#) of Aeson kicked off last week, and ought to yield data in 2022. Carmat has little competition. Ventricular assist devices such as [Abbott's HeartMate](#) are not powerful enough for patients who need a transplant. Only one other company, Syncardia, sells an artificial heart. It was bought out of bankruptcy by private equity group Versa Capital Management in 2016, and last reported the [implanting of one of its devices in 2018](#).



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