

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **January 14, 2025**

SmartKem, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-42115
(Commission
File Number)

85-1083654
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**Manchester Technology Center, Hexagon Tower
Delaunays Road, Blackley
Manchester, M9 8GQ U.K.**
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

011-44-161-721-1514
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	SMTK	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b - 2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b - 2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On January 14, 2025, SmartKem, Inc. issued a press release providing an update on its business. A copy of the press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>99.1</u>	<u>Press Release, dated January 14, 2025</u>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SMARTKEM, INC.

Dated: January 14, 2025

By: /s/ Barbra C. Keck
Barbra C. Keck
Chief Financial Officer

Smartkem

PRESS
RELEASE

Smartkem Recaps 2024 Achievements and Sets 2025 Goals

MANCHESTER, England, Jan. 14, 2025 -- Smartkem (Nasdaq: SMTK), which is seeking to change the world of electronics using its disruptive organic thin-film transistors (OTFTs), recapped its key accomplishments for 2024 and set its goals 2025.

CEO Statement

Smartkem Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ian Jenks commented, "2024 was a pivotal year for Smartkem. In December, we raised \$7.65 million and, together with our collaboration partner, were awarded a \$1.1 million grant for a project to develop the world's first rollable, transparent microLED display. We uplisted to Nasdaq, increasing trading liquidity and broadening access to investors. We made significant strides in our plans to commercialize our proprietary semiconductor materials with strategic partnerships and collaborations with industry-leaders. We believe we have strengthened our position as a key player in the market for microLED displays, as well as packaging solutions for advanced computing and AI chips and CMOS for smart sensors. Looking toward 2025, we are focused on achieving qualifications and design wins with existing and new collaborations. We believe our technology will help drive adoption of advanced display and other technologies, with the microLED industry projected to grow from \$150 million in 2024 to over \$4 billion by 2031.¹"

Smartkem 2024 Highlights:

- Entered multiple strategic partnerships and collaborations with industry-leading display manufacturers in Asia, North America, and Europe:
 - o **AUO** to jointly develop the world's first advanced rollable, transparent microLED display;
 - o **FlexiIC** to develop low-cost, rapid turnaround custom circuits using organic transistor technology and a new generation of low-power CMOS-enabled smart sensor devices;
 - o **ITRI** (Industrial Technology Research Institute) to enable product prototyping on its Gen 2.5 equipment;
 - o **Chip Foundation** to co-develop a new generation of microLED-based backlight technology for Liquid Crystal Displays;
 - o Shanghai **Tianma** Microelectronics to develop OTFT-based microarray biochips to amplify and process signals generated by TFT-based sensor devices; and
 - o **RiTdisplay** to manufacture a new type of active-matrix OLED display.
- Increased IP to 138 patents and 40 codified trade secrets, strengthening Smartkem's competitive advantage in the rapidly evolving organic materials electronics industry.
- Uplisted to Nasdaq.
- Awarded a grant in partnership with AUO from the 2024 Taiwan-UK Research & Development Collaboration.
- Exhibited and presented at key trade events, including Touch Taiwan 2024 and Display Week 2024 in San Jose, where CEO Ian Jenks gave the DSCC / SID Business Conference keynote speech.

2025 Goals:

- Ship the first installment of Smartkem's materials to Chip Foundation under our collaboration to develop a new generation of microLED-based backlight technology for Liquid Crystal Displays.
- Sign a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) for a chip-first microLED display.
- Complete qualification of Gen 2.5 ITRI process line.
- Enter into additional collaborations and/or co-development agreements that further advance our technology toward commercialization.

¹ 2024 Omdia Report

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Smartkem

PRESS
RELEASE

"We thank our stockholders for their continued support and look forward to updating you on our progress throughout the year," concluded Jenks.

About Smartkem

Smartkem is seeking to reshape the world of electronics with its disruptive organic thin-film transistors (OTFTs) that have the potential to revolutionize the display industry. Smartkem's patented TRUFLEX® liquid semiconductor polymers can be used to make a new type of transistor that can be used in a number of display technologies, including next generation microLED displays. Smartkem's organic inks enable low temperature printing processes that are compatible with existing manufacturing infrastructure to deliver low-cost displays that outperform existing technology.

Smartkem develops its materials at its research and development facility in Manchester, UK and provides prototyping services at the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) at Sedgefield, UK. It has a field application office in Taiwan. The company has an extensive IP portfolio including 138 granted patents across 18 patent families and 40 codified trade secrets. For more information, visit our website or follow us on LinkedIn.

Forward-Looking Statements

All statements in this press release that are not historical are forward-looking statements, including, among other things, its market position and market opportunity, expectations and plans as to its product development, manufacturing and sales, and relations with its partners and investors. These statements are not historical facts but rather are based on Smartkem Inc.'s current expectations, estimates, and projections regarding its business, operations and other similar or related factors. Words such as "may," "will,"

"could," "would," "should," "anticipate," "predict," "potential," "continue," "expect," "intend," "plan," "project," "believe," "estimate," and other similar or related expressions are used to identify these forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and assumptions that are difficult or impossible to predict and, in some cases, beyond the Company's control. Actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including those described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update information in this release to reflect events or circumstances in the future, even if new information becomes available.

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