EQUITY RESEARCH | DESK NOTE

CTS – Newly Listed Alzheimer's Medical Device Targets US$18 billion Market Debuts +132%

ASX: CTS | 29 July 2026 | Analyst: Nathan Graves | nathan@prenzlergroup.com.au

Company Snapshot

Company Name	Ceretas Limited
Exchange/Code	ASX: CTS
Lead Asset	Ceretas Device, focused ultrasound for Alzheimer's
Total Shares on Issue	71.4m
Share Price (close 28 Jul 2026)	$0.60
Market Capitalisation	$42.8m
Cash (pro forma per prospectus)	$10.1 m

Medical technology company Ceretas made its ASX debut last Thursday, closing its first trading session 132% above its IPO price. The company raised $8 million by issuing 32 million new shares at $0.25 giving it a market cap of approximately $17.8. It closed at $0.58 increasing its market cap to approximately $41.4 million.

Treating Alzheimer's with Focused Ultrasound

Ceretas is a medical technology company building a device to treat Alzheimer's disease using focused ultrasound. Focused ultrasound is precisely aimed sound waves directed through the skull into the brain, without surgery.

The device is called the Ceretas Device, and it works on two different approaches:

1. **Neuromodulation**: low-intensity sound waves stimulate brain circuits involved in memory, mood, and behaviour.
2. **Blood-brain barrier opening (BBBO)**: sound waves combined with injected bubbles temporarily open the protective barrier around the brain, which could allow drugs to reach brain tissue more effectively. Ceretas' BBBO program is currently in preclinical development.

The device is portable and designed for hospitals, aged care facilities, and outpatient clinics. A treatment session takes about 25 minutes. Patients need one MRI scan before starting treatment to map their brain, but the treatment itself does not require an MRI machine to be present, which is a practical advantage over some competitors.

The Ceretas Device

The device has three main physical parts:

- A transducer (the component that generates and delivers the sound waves through the skull)
- A fluid coupling system (ensures the sound waves travel efficiently from the transducer to the scalp)
- A neuronavigation system (software that uses the patient's MRI scan to guide the transducer to exactly the right spot in the brain)

The current device is built in-house by Ceretas. A next-generation commercial version is being developed with help from Melbourne company Planet Innovation, incorporating a robotic arm to reduce operator effort and custom-built software to replace the third-party navigation system. That commercial device is expected to be ready by mid-2027.

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Background

The technology was developed over more than a decade at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) at the University of Queensland. Ceretas was spun out of UQ in October 2024 to commercialise that research.

A first-in-human Phase 1 trial was completed in 2024 at Mater Private Hospital in Brisbane in 12 Alzheimer's patients. All participants completed the study, which met its primary endpoints of safety, feasibility and tolerability. The study also showed an encouraging exploratory behavioural signal, with 10 of 12 participants recording lower behavioural symptom scores. Results were published in the journal Brain Communications in 2025.

Company Goals

Short-term

- Start their company-sponsored Phase 2 trial (called CERE-CALM), which is a randomised sham-controlled trial in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's patients, focusing on behavioural symptoms. The first trial site, Cognivus Research, has already been contracted.
- Run this alongside a second Phase 2 trial being funded by a $5 million Queensland Health grant through QBI (called AGIFUS), which targets more severe Alzheimer's patients. Ceretas owns all intellectual property generated from that trial.
- Continue developing the next-generation commercial device.
- Start pre-submission meetings with the FDA to understand the approval pathway.

Medium-term:

- If Phase 2 results are positive, design and run a Phase 3 pivotal trial.
- Seek FDA approval, then CE Marking in Europe and TGA registration in Australia.

Longer-term:

- Advance the Blood-brain barrier opening (BBBO) program toward first-in-human trials (within roughly 24 months of listing).
- Partner with pharmaceutical companies to use their device to enhance drug delivery in Alzheimer's.
- Explore other neurological conditions beyond Alzheimer's.

Board and Experience

John Keep (Non-Executive Chair)

Former CEO of QLD Diagnostic Imaging, which he grew and sold. Currently Chair of EMVision Medical Devices (ASX: EMV), another medical device company. His background is running healthcare businesses and public company governance.

Rachel de las Heras (CEO and Managing Director)

One of the three co-founders. She led the ultrasound program at UQ/QBI before Ceretas was formed, overseeing the clinical and preclinical development of the technology. Previously held a commercial development role at AnteoTech (ASX: ADO). Holds a PhD in Molecular Biology.

Anthony Keating (Executive Director)

Co-founded ResApp Health (ASX: RAP), a respiratory diagnostics company, and ran it as CEO until Pfizer acquired it for $180 million in 2022. Previously worked in technology commercialisation at UniQuest (UQ's commercialisation arm). Holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from UQ and an executive certificate from MIT Sloan. Currently a director of TrivarX (ASX: TRI).

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Sam Wetzler (Non-Executive Director)

Co-founder of the company. A finance and capital markets professional. Founded Macleay Financial (a lending advisory firm) and Divvy Now (a platform for ASX shareholders to access dividend payments early). Currently Head of Sequoia Asset Management, part of ASX-listed Sequoia Financial Group (ASX: SEQ).

Stuart Crozier (Non-Executive Director)

Professor and former Associate Dean of Research in Biomedical Engineering at UQ. Part-time Chief Scientific Officer at EMVision (ASX: EMV). An inventor on more than 30 granted patent families. His innovations in MRI engineering have been licensed by GE and Siemens.

Alzheimer's Market

Alzheimer's disease is the dominant form of dementia globally. The market for Alzheimer's treatments is large: estimated at about US$18 billion in 2024 and projected to reach US$28 billion by 2030.

Current treatments fall into two categories. Symptomatic drugs mask some symptoms but do not slow the disease. Newer disease-modifying drugs (like lecanemab and donanemab, approved by the FDA in recent years) target and reduce amyloid plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease, but they require IV infusions, cost over $25,000 per year in the US, carry a risk of serious brain swelling, and are only suitable for early-stage patients.

Current treatment options only partially address the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD), things like agitation, aggression, and psychosis, which affect the majority of Alzheimer's patients and are the primary focus for Ceretas. Current options are limited and often rely on antipsychotic drugs, which carry serious safety warnings, including an increased risk of death in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis.

The agitation-in-Alzheimer's market alone is estimated at about US$4.9 billion in 2024, growing to US$8.6 billion by 2034.

Catalyst	Timeline	Significance
CERE-CALM Phase 2 recruitment commencement	Near term	Commencement would confirm activation of the company-sponsored, 60-patient sham-controlled trial in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease.
AGIFUS investigator-led Phase 2 data	Timing not disclosed	Could provide complementary safety and efficacy evidence in moderate-to-severe Alzheimer's patients and help determine the optimal treatment target and response profile.
Next-generation Ceretas Device completion	Mid-2027	Intended to deliver the commercial version of the device, with a lift-assist arm and custom-built treatment software. It may also be considered for use in the Phase 3 program.
CERE-CALM Phase 2 results	Timing not disclosed	The central clinical catalyst. Positive sham-controlled results would support the treatment approach, inform the design of a pivotal Phase 3 trial.
FDA pre-submission meetings	Near term	Expected to provide early guidance on the regulatory pathway, including clinical evidence and pivotal trial requirements.
BBBO pre-clinical data and progression	Near to medium term; first-in-human studies targeted within approximately 24 months of Admission	Could validate a second major application of the platform and support progression into human studies.

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