

PRESS RELEASE

vorteX-io raises 2.9 million euros to become Europe's leading provider of real-time in-situ hydrological data for sustainable water management

Toulouse, June 6, 2024 - vorteX-io, the Toulouse-based startup specializing in large-scale hydrological monitoring solutions, opens its capital to institutional investors. This funding, led by Banque des Territoires and MAIF Impact alongside AFI Ventures - Ventech's impact fund - and SpaceFounders France, supplemented by bank financing, will enable the company to accelerate the deployment of its network of connected micro-stations and its Maelstrom platform. vorteX-io aims to become the leading provider of real-time field hydrological data in Europe.

A strategic service for knowledge and management of water resources

Europe is experiencing an increase in extreme weather phenomena, resulting in a growing number of natural disasters, exposing 11% of the population to the risk of flooding and a third of the territory to water stress. Climate change is prompting governments and institutions to gain a better understanding of water resources in order to manage them more sustainably.

To meet this challenge, vorteX-io has developed a disruptive technology and an innovative business model in the field of continental hydrology. Based on satellite altimetry techniques, its solution measures the key hydrological parameters of rivers and streams (water height, surface velocity and imagery) in real time, with unrivalled precision. The data is analysed on its Maelstrom platform, which provides strategic services to public and private decision-makers: real-time notification in the event of risk, optimization of water management for local authorities, securing infrastructures, anticipation of agricultural and industrial needs.

Europe's first real-time hydrological forecasting service

Winner of the 2023 EIC Accelerator program, vorteX-io has already received a 2.5 million euros grant from the European Innovation Council for its WHYLD (Worldwide HYdrological Large-scale Database) project, aimed at creating the first European real-time hydrological forecasting service. By the end of 2024, 1,000 micro-stations will have been deployed in France and Croatia, two European countries at high risk of flooding.

The 2.9 million euros raised from investors will enable vorteX-io to accelerate the deployment of its network, with a further 2,000 micro-stations by 2026 to model the main European river basins. The company also plans to double its workforce to 80 employees by 2026, with 10 new hires starting in 2024. This development is supported by its investors, convinced by the positive environmental and societal impact of the solution.

“Our aim is to provide decision-makers with strategic tools and services that will enable them to improve their water management and better forecast extreme weather phenomena such as droughts and floods, major challenges for the safety and resilience of territories”, explains **Jean-Christophe Poisson**, co-founder and CEO of vorteX-io.

François Wohrer, Investment Director of Banque des Territoires, emphasizes: *“Against a backdrop of great environmental stress, and with 18 million French people living in flood-prone areas, protecting people and property is a major challenge for our country. It is in this spirit that we are supporting the growth of vorteX-io, a Toulouse-based startup, whose river monitoring technology is an innovative and effective tool for local authorities, and which, by developing employment, contributes to social cohesion”.*

Hélène Hannoir, President of MAIF Impact, adds: *“Responding to the climate emergency and implementing actions enabling populations to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change is at the heart of the strategy of MAIF Impact, the MAIF Group's impact fund. The vorteX-io project convinced us thanks to its degree of technological innovation and its positioning with local players, particularly local authorities. For these reasons, MAIF Impact is delighted to add vorteX-io to its portfolio of young innovative companies whose business model creates positive impacts for the benefit of society and the environment”*.

For **Charles Fourault**, Partner at AFI Ventures, *“Water tech has long been neglected, but it's our mission as seed-stage impact investment funds to understand and support it. The urgency of climate change calls for the creation of new technological solutions adapted to these challenges. vorteX-io is just such a company. Guillaume and his team had the idea of adapting space technology to create a connected hydrological micro-station to revolutionize river monitoring. The traction, in France and internationally, proves that this meets a real need, and only needs to be accelerated.”*

“Strongly rooted in the space domain, vorteX-io's expertise in altimetry and space oceanography is mobilized to respond to climate challenges in continental hydrology. Supported by CNES since its creation, vorteX-io deploys a network of sensors providing high-precision in-situ measurements for satellite calibration and data enhancement. This network also plays a crucial role in protecting critical infrastructures against the risk of terrestrial flooding,” explains **Anaïs van Wynsberghe**, Investment Manager for SpaceFounders France.

“This first round of financing testifies to our partners' confidence in our solution and our ambition to democratize access to real-time hydrological data. Our services respond to current and future environmental challenges, providing governments and economic players with strategic information in a simple, cost-effective and global way,” concludes **Guillaume Valladeau**, President of vorteX-io.

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HD visuals available [here](#)

About vorteX-io

vorteX-io is revolutionizing continental hydrology by offering turnkey solutions for monitoring watercourses, thereby improving flood and drought risk management. The company's offering is distinguished by the unique combination of two major innovations: a connected, autonomous hydrological micro-station based on space technology, and a web-based platform offering a wide range of high value-added services. One of these services is the provision of real-time alert notifications, boosting the responsiveness of those involved.

Its services are aimed at all sectors exposed to water-related risks, including civil protection, tourism, insurance, transport, industry and energy. Since March 2023, vorteX-io has been receiving financial support from the European Innovation Council for the creation of Europe's first river forecasting service. Based in Toulouse, the company is expanding rapidly, rolling out its hydrological network across Europe. With a staff of around thirty, vorteX-io has established itself as a major player in the field of hydrological intelligence.



<https://www.vortex-io.fr/>

About Banque des Territoires

Banque des Territoires is one of Caisse des Dépôts' business lines. It brings together the Group's in-house expertise for the benefit of local and regional authorities. As a single point of contact for its customers, Banque des Territoires works alongside all local players: local authorities, local public enterprises, social housing organizations, the legal professions, businesses and financial players. It supports them in carrying out their public-interest projects by offering a continuum of solutions: advice, loans, equity investments, consignments and banking services. By reaching out to all

territories, from rural areas to metropolitan areas, Banque des Territoires aims to maximize its impact, particularly in terms of ecological transformation and social and territorial cohesion. Banque des Territoires' 37 local offices ensure that its action is deployed across the whole of mainland France and the French overseas territories.

Working together to develop greener, more cohesive territories

banquedesterritoires.fr



About MAIF Impact

MAIF, which became a company with a mission in 2020, conducts its activities in the service of the common good. This is the aim of MAIF Impact, an investment fund for social and societal innovation, whose ambition is to invest in young innovative companies whose business model creates positive impacts for the benefit of society and the environment. Through its investments, MAIF Impact targets five priority themes: education and fundamental rights, adapting cities to transitions, promoting circularity, responding to the climate emergency, and preserving and regenerating biodiversity. With a capital of 40 million euros, MAIF Impact has supported the development of some 30 organizations since its creation.

entreprise.maif.fr/engagements/economie-responsable/maif-impact

About AFI Ventures

AFI Ventures is a seed & pre-seed fund supporting impact startups focused on environmental and social issues. Managed by Ventech and endowed with €31 million, AFI Ventures is committed to supporting the emergence and scaling of entrepreneurs at the intersection of “for profit” and “for good”, developing fairer and more sustainable solutions for all sectors of the economy in France and Europe.

<https://allianceforimpact.com/fr/afi-ventures/>

About SpaceFounders France

SpaceFounders is a gas pedal for European space startups, whose aim is to identify and support future champions, enabling them to amplify their impact on structuring the space industry. Launched in 2021, it is operated by the French Space Agency (CNES), the University of the Bundeswehr (Munich, Germany) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI). SpaceFounders France, a subsidiary of CNES Participations, also invests in startups with a proven track record throughout the support process.

www.spacefounders.com