



Press Release

Paris, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **ELECTRANOVA CAPITAL AND ORAXYS TEAM UP TO FINANCE LEOSPHERE'S GLOBAL EXPANSION**

LEOSPHERE, an established and recognized global leader in the laser radar remote sensors market (LIDAR), has finalized a 10M€ fundraising, the second tranche of a €20 million equity transaction. This second tranche was closed with Electranova Capital, the venture capital fund managed by Idinvest Partners and sponsored by EDF, the world's second largest utility company. The first tranche had been concluded in December 2012 with Oraxys.

Since inception in 2004, LEOSPHERE has transformed LIDARs into turnkey real-time diagnostic systems, expanding profitably at a very rapid pace on each continent. LEOSPHERE and its subsidiary Avent Lidar Technology have captured leadership positions in both ground-based and nacelle-mounted LIDARs for atmospheric observation.

Over the course of the last five years, the wind industry has been a key market driver for LIDARs. There has been an increasing acceptance of these novel systems by the wind power community, which is looking for bankable, accurate and rapid wind measurements solutions.

Alexandre Sauvage, co-founder and CEO of LEOSPHERE comments: *"This fundraising is quite structuring for LEOSPHERE. We are really delighted to welcome Electranova Capital and its management company Idinvest Partners as a partner alongside Oraxys. This second capital increase completes our funding requirements and will allow us to strengthen our industrial capabilities and further expand our operations in regions where we see clear commercial traction. We are now well equipped to pursue our internationalization".*

Nicolas Chaudron, Partner at Idinvest Partners, comments *"we believe LEOSPHERE is now ideally positioned to consolidate its leadership in the LIDAR business globally. Electranova, our cleantech VC fund, with its international network of partners, will support LEOSPHERE during this next phase of development, in particular in the Asian and North American markets."*

Oraxys' Managing Partner Gregory Fayolle declares *"Oraxys is pleased to welcome Electranova Capital and its management company Idinvest Partners in LEOSPHERE's industrial project. We believe that the management has demonstrated its strength and has the capability to build up an international leader."*

Alongside the wind market, LEOSPHERE is also expanding into other high potential markets such as airports (wind shears, wake vortex, volcanic ash and fog detection), severe weather forecast (prevention of hurricane and tornado damage), climate change (carbon emission tradable values), air quality and industrial security.

Philippe Schmitt, co-founder of Natureo Finance, LEOSPHERE's financial advisor adds: *"We are extremely pleased to have supported LEOSPHERE, one of the leading cleantech companies over the last three years. We have seen tremendous interest from first-class investors from different parts of the world. This clearly demonstrates the relevance of LEOSPHERE's positioning."*



**About LEOSPHERE: ([www.leosphere.com](http://www.leosphere.com))**

LEOSPHERE is a high-tech company located in Paris Region with a focus on atmospheric LIDAR sensing. It employs 125 people and has deployed over 400 LIDAR systems throughout the world since 2004. Its technology comes from the leading optoelectronics and atmospheric science public research laboratories ONERA (French Aerospace Research Agency) and CEA (Atomic Energy Research Agency). LEOSPHERE has several application markets amongst which: wind power, aviation weather, weather and climate, air quality and industrial risks.

**About Electranova Capital ([www.electranovacapital.com](http://www.electranovacapital.com)) and Idinvest Partners ([www.idinvest.com](http://www.idinvest.com)):**

Electranova Capital was launched in May 2012 by Idinvest Partners in partnership with EDF and with the support of Allianz and Bpifrance – the French sovereign fund. The fund's mission is to back innovative, emerging projects in new energy and environmental technologies.

Idinvest Partners is a leading pan-European private equity manager focused on the middle market segment. Founded under the name AGF private Equity in 1997, Idinvest Partners manages over €4 billion and has staff of 43 employees. Until 2010, Idinvest Partners was part of the Allianz Group; it subsequently joined forces with IDI Group to become independent.

**About Oraxys: ([www.oraxys.com](http://www.oraxys.com))**

Oraxys is one of the first cleantech private equity firms of Luxembourg-French origin with a European Influence. Oraxys' team includes Strategy Partners who are former Managing Directors of European industrial groups (Schneider Electric, Philips, Saint-Gobain, etc) sharing business experiences and broad international networks in Europe, North America, Middle East and Asia.

**Advisors:**

**Legal:** STC Partners (LEOSPHERE), De Pardieu Brocas Maffei (Oraxys), Chammas & Marcheteau (Idinvest Partners, Electranova Capital).

**LEOSPHERE's financial advisor:** Natureo Finance SAS ([www.natureofinance.com](http://www.natureofinance.com)) is a corporate finance advisory boutique, providing financial and strategic advisory in the cleantech, renewable and environmental sectors. The company has offices in France and in Germany.

**Contact LEOSPHERE:**

**Domitille Cournault**  
**+33 (0)1 81 87 05 00**  
[news@leosphere.com](mailto:news@leosphere.com)