



## PRESS RELEASE

### PARIS SCIENCES & LETTRES, ELAIA PARTNERS AND AURIGA PARTNERS ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF PSL INNOVATION FUND

*Paris, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017* – Paris Sciences & Lettres university (PSL), Elaia Partners and Auriga Partners launch PSL Innovation Fund, a seed fund dedicated to start-ups within PSL ecosystem. This fund is the first initiative in Elaia Partners' new line of funds focused on technology transfer activities. PSL Innovation Fund will be managed by Elaia Partners, in partnership with Auriga Partners. In this context, Anne-Sophie Carrese joins Elaia's partnership in order to run the new line of activity and PSL Innovation Fund, after a career as an accomplished investor.

PSL, born from the clustering of prestigious academic and research institutions, is a research university focused on innovation and inter-disciplinarity located in the very heart of Paris. PSL ecosystem is increasingly dynamic thanks to the growing number of start-ups created by students and researchers and to the creation of support structures such as incubators or fab-labs that are active within PSL's perimeter. These initiatives create a strong momentum around technology transfer. PSL Innovation Fund was created to support this momentum by relying on Elaia Partners' and Auriga Partners' affinities with research and scientific excellence. This initiative is the result of both PSL Valorisation's specific model which is supported by the CGI and Elaia Partners' willingness to strengthen its investments in disruptive innovation and its ties with the public research ecosystem.

Investment sectors will include Computer Science, Life Sciences and all the other domains of excellence from PSL such as Energy, Physics of Materials, Healthcare, Cognitive Sciences, Social Sciences or Finance. PSL Innovation Fund will invest both at pre-seed and seed stages, in disruptive deep tech innovations and will create a privileged relationship with the project owners from the early development of the company.

After a call for expression of interest regarding this strategic project, PSL decided to partner with Elaia Partners and Auriga Partners, which Life Sciences team will bring to the table their expertise in this domain. Marc Mézard, president of PSL, states: *"As PSL is emerging as one of the best European universities, the creation of PSL Innovation Fund strengthens the support we give to our start-ups and the impact of our technology transfer initiatives. PSL is glad to partner with two recognized venture capital firms for this pioneering project."*

Xavier Lazarus, partner at Elaia Partners, explains: *"In a time when most sectors are being digitalized, a new wave of disruptive technological innovations is emerging, especially in France, where academic excellence enables innovative ideas and breakthrough technologies to come out from public research institutions. It seemed critical for us to get as close as possible to inventors, to support them in the process of turning ideas into successful start-ups."*

In order to manage this new line of funds, Elaia Partners recently welcomed Anne-Sophie Carrese as a new partner. Her track record as an engineer and investor close to traditional industrial sectors (Energy, Automotive, Aeronautics, etc.) comes as a key addition to the partnership's skillset. Ecole Polytechnique graduate, Anne-Sophie Carrese was previously

Investment Director at Bpifrance Investissement, in charge of managing Ecotechnologies, a fund she structured in 2012. She was responsible for the investments in companies such as Actility, McPhy Energy, EZ-Wheel, Aledia and Safety Line.

**About Elaia Partners - [www.elaia.com](http://www.elaia.com)**

Created in 2002, Elaia Partners is an independent Venture Capital firm, focused on the digital economy. Elaia Partners has more than €250m under management and invests in high potential disruptive start-ups from the first financing rounds to the emergence of global leaders. With more than 60 years of cumulated experience in both venture capital and digital industries, the investment team offers a close, proactive and relevant support to its entrepreneurs.

Elaia Partners was an early investor in companies such as Sigfox, Mirakl, Criteo, Teads, adomik, Talent.io, Agriconomie, EasyRECrue, Shift Technology, tinyclues, Orchestra Networks, Agnitio, etc.

Twitter: @Elaia\_Partners

**Anne-Sophie Carrese** was previously an Investment Director at Bpifrance Investissement in charge of managing Ecotechnologies, a fund she structured in 2012.



She was notably in charge of investments in companies, such as Actility, McPhy Energy, EZ-Wheel, Aledia and Safety Line.

She helped portfolio companies negotiate critical partnerships with large industrial corporates. Anne-Sophie started her career as a test engineer in aircraft engines.

She graduated from Ecole Polytechnique, Corps de l'Armement.

Anne-Sophie first joined Bpifrance Investissement back in 2009 to launch the mezzanine fund, focused on growth capital and more specifically on financing external growth operations.

She was previously in charge of financing Energy and Mobility related projects, both at the Caisse des Dépôts and at the Direction du Trésor.

**About Auriga Partners – [www.auriga.vc](http://www.auriga.vc)**



Auriga Partners is an independent Venture Capital firm located in Paris which invests in digital and life-sciences sectors. The company targets innovative projects with high potential from the earliest stages of development to the global commercial expansion. Through 4 generations of funds, Auriga Partners manages more than €350m and provides its portfolio companies with its expertise in structuring management teams, building a robust organization and closing strategic global partnerships. The team supported dozens of successful companies with an experience of both M&A and IPOs. These companies include: Amoeba (EuroNext), Availpro (Accor), Codenvy (RedHat), Ekinops (EuroNext), Erytech (EuroNext), EVE (Synopsis), Genocea (Nasdaq), Median (AlterNext), Miliboo (AlterNext), Neolane (Adobe), Novagali (Santen), Oxand (Latour), Supersonic Imagine (EuroNext), TxCell (EuroNext) et Wallix (AlterNext).

#### **About PSL - [univ-psl.fr](http://univ-psl.fr)**

Paris Sciences & Lettres research university (PSL) offers an ideal environment for the development of academic excellence, creation and innovation: 4 500 researchers, 181 laboratories, 20 000 students and a dozen of incubators, fab-labs and co-working spaces for students and entrepreneurs in the heart of Paris.

Arts, sciences and engineering are at the core of its intellectual and scientific ambition. As a global selective university, rooted in interdisciplinarity and committed to promoting talents and defending equal opportunity, PSL creates the world of tomorrow.

*Member institutes: Chimie ParisTech, École nationale des chartes, École normale supérieure, École Pratique des Hautes Études, ESPCI Paris, Institut Curie, MINES ParisTech, Observatoire de Paris, Université Paris-Dauphine*

*Affiliated institutions: Beaux-Arts de Paris, Collège de France, Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique, Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, École française d'Extrême-Orient, École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, IBPC-Fondation Edmond de Rothschild, Institut Louis Bachelier, La Fémis*

*National organizations: CNRS, Inria, Inserm*

*Partners: Lycée Henri-IV, Institut Pasteur*

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