



PRESS RELEASE

Carbon-removal start-up NetZero raises €11 million – Europe’s record Series A in climate tech

- NetZero is an award-winning French start-up specialising in long-term carbon removal
- By raising €11 million, NetZero has closed Europe’s largest Series A round in climate tech
- New investors are three leading multinational companies: Stellantis, L’Oréal, and CMA CGM
- The money will be used to prepare the scale-up of NetZero, whose model is based on biochar

Paris, 7 February 2023 – NetZero, a French climate venture named one of the world’s most promising carbon removal projects in 2022, announces it has raised €11 million in Europe’s largest Series A for climate tech. The company, which specialises in long-term carbon removal using biochar, is joined by three investors: the global automaker and mobility provider Stellantis, through its Stellantis Ventures fund; the world leader in beauty L’Oréal, through its “L’Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration” impact fund; and CMA CGM, a global player in sea, land, air and logistics solutions. The new shareholders come on top of 23 business angels who have been supporting the start-up since the beginning.

Created in January 2021 by its five co-founders, including ex-BCG Axel Reinaud and climatologist Jean Jouzel, NetZero’s ambition is to bring at scale biochar, one of the only solutions recognised by the IPCC as capable of removing carbon from the atmosphere for hundreds of years. The company has already started rolling out its model: first in Cameroon, where a demonstration plant was built in November 2021, and now in Brazil, where a new-generation facility will soon be completed. NetZero’s mid-term goal is to reach, by 2030, 2 million tonnes of CO₂ removed annually.

This capital raise, which is the first of a two-tranche fundraising process to be closed later this year, will help NetZero reach its bold ambitions by:

- Accelerating on R&D to industrialise its model;
- Continuing its overall growth, especially in Brazil, where 2 additional plants will be constructed in 2023;
- Hiring new talents to accompany this growth, with an expected fourfold staff increase this year, reaching 400 people, most of them located in Brazil and Cameroon.

NetZero’s innovative model is based on the industrial production and local use of biochar in the tropics. By collecting unused crop residues and extracting the carbon they contain, NetZero produces a very stable form of carbon (biochar) that can be used as a soil amendment in agriculture. This allows to simultaneously store carbon away from the atmosphere for hundreds of years and durably improve soil quality, hence crop yields and farmers’ income. In 2022, NetZero’s model was selected as one of the world’s 15 most promising carbon-removal projects in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal international competition.

Axel Reinaud, Co-founder & CEO of NetZero, said: *“We are happy to start 2023 by welcoming Stellantis, L’Oréal, and CMA CGM as new shareholders of NetZero. This record capital raise confirms the very high interest around our model and illustrates the growing recognition of the need for large-scale carbon removal. We are now in a very good position to prepare the scale-up of our model and meet our ambitious objectives.”*

ABOUT NETZERO

NetZero was founded in 2021 by Axel Reinaud, Prof. Jean Jouzel, Aimé Njiakin, Olivier Reinaud, and Pedro de Figueiredo. Its objective is to bring at scale biochar, one of the few solutions that can durably remove carbon from the atmosphere. By leveraging biochar’s co-benefits, NetZero’s model simultaneously tackles three pressing challenges in developing countries: climate change, sustainable agriculture, and access to energy.

NetZero is a Milestone Award winner of the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, a recipient of the ‘Efficient Solution’ label from Solar Impulse Foundation, and a certified carbon-removal project by the Puro Standard. NetZero’s mid-term objective is to reach an annual removal capacity of 2 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2030.

Learn more at: www.netzero.green

ABOUT STELLANTIS

Stellantis N.V. (NYSE / MTA / Euronext Paris: STLA) is one of the world's leading automakers and a mobility provider. Its storied and iconic brands embody the passion of their visionary founders and today's customers in their innovative products and services, including Abarth, Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Citroën, Dodge, DS Automobiles, Fiat, Jeep®, Lancia, Maserati, Opel, Peugeot, Ram, Vauxhall, Free2move and Leasys.

Powered by our diversity, we lead the way the world moves – aspiring to become the greatest sustainable mobility tech company, not the biggest, while creating added value for all stakeholders as well as the communities in which it operates.

For more information, visit www.stellantis.com

ABOUT L'ORÉAL

For over 110 years, L'Oréal, the world's leading beauty player, has devoted itself to one thing only: fulfilling the beauty aspirations of consumers around the world. Our purpose, to create the beauty that moves the world, defines our approach to beauty as inclusive, ethical, generous and committed to social and environmental sustainability. With our broad portfolio of 35 international brands and ambitious sustainability commitments in our L'Oréal for the Future programme, we offer each and every person around the world the best in terms of quality, efficacy, safety, sincerity and responsibility, while celebrating beauty in its infinite plurality.

With 85,400 committed employees, a balanced geographical footprint and sales across all distribution networks (e-commerce, mass market, department stores, pharmacies, hair salons, branded and travel retail), in 2021 the Group generated sales amounting to 32.28 billion euros. With 20 research centers across 11 countries around the world and a dedicated Research and Innovation team of 4,000 scientists and over 3,000 tech professionals, L'Oréal is focused on inventing the future of beauty and becoming a Beauty Tech powerhouse.

More information on <https://www.loreal.com/en/mediaroom>

ABOUT THE L'ORÉAL FUND FOR NATURE REGENERATION

The L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration is a 50-million-euro impact investment fund, operated by Mirova, the asset management company affiliated to Natixis Investment Managers and dedicated to sustainable investment¹. It aims to support projects conserving or restoring natural habitats. More specifically, the portfolio will include projects that support the regeneration of degraded land, mangroves as well the restoration of marine areas and forests. Beyond ecological restoration, these projects will also help address the social needs of surrounding communities through the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities (sustainable agriculture and fisheries, ecotourism, commercialization of carbon credits). They will live in a healthier environment, benefit from new economic opportunities and enhanced resilience to climate change.

- By 2030, the L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration will have helped restore one million hectares of degraded ecosystems.
- By 2030, the Fund will have helped capture 15 to 20 million tons of CO₂.
- It will have created hundreds of job opportunities.

ABOUT CMA CGM

Led by Rodolphe Saadé, the CMA CGM Group, a global player in sea, land, air and logistics solutions, serves more than 420 ports around the world across 5 continents, with a fleet of 584 vessels. The Group transported 22 million TEU containers (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2021.

With its subsidiary CEVA Logistics, a global logistics player which transported 474,000 tons of air cargo and more than 21 million tons of inland freight, and its air cargo division CMA CGM AIR CARGO, the CMA CGM Group is constantly innovating to provide customers a comprehensive and increasingly efficient offering, thanks to new shipping, inland, air freight and logistics solutions.

Firmly committed to the energy transition in shipping and a pioneer in its use of alternative fuels, the CMA CGM Group has set a Net Zero-Carbon target for 2050. Present in 160 countries through its network of more than 400 offices and 750 warehouses, the Group employs 150,000 people worldwide, including nearly 4,000 in Marseille where its head office is located.

More information on cmacgm-group.com

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¹ L'Oréal fund for Nature Regeneration is a French société par actions simplifiée à capital variable (other AIF), closed to new subscription. Mirova is the management company. The supervisory authority approval is not required for this fund.