# Femtech Company, Sonio, Raises \$14 Million to Improve the Health of Pregnant People and Children Across the World

**Paris, France - (July 11th, 2023)** – Sonio, a French medtech specializing in pregnant people and children's health, is today finalizing a series A fundraising of \$14 million following the initial commitment of the EIC Fund (European Innovation Council) last December.

This round is led by Cross Border Impact Ventures, a North American impact fund dedicated to the health of women and children, and the Elaia funds, French Tech Seed managed on behalf of the State by Bpifrance in the framework of France 2030, OneRagtime, as well as business angels very active in the health field, including Dominique Gaillard (former president of France Invest), Alain Decombe (Dechert) and Yann Fleureau (founder of Cardiologs), who renew their trust.

True to its mission to improve access to quality pregnancy monitoring for all, Sonio will use this fundraising to continue to improve its SaaS solution, initiate its commercial development in the United States, and adapt its technology for the use of portable ultrasound scanners.

"Sonio has created an innovative platform that empowers fetal ultrasound technology, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of fetal medicine specialists. Additionally, it aims to bridge the increasing shortage of specialized healthcare workers worldwide. We take pride in leading this significant round of financing, as it contributes to the early growth of this venture." Says Annie Thériault, Managing Partner at Cross-Border Impact Ventures.

The Company has developed the first SaaS, agnostic and interoperable, to automate ultrasound reporting, while providing image quality control and detection of potential anomalies using Al. Sonio will continue to enrich its artificial intelligence for image recognition in order to extend the number of automatically recognized images, to be able to check their quality, and to help detect anomalies, and will integrate data into its multimodal platform imaging and genomics.

Sonio has always had the ambition to offer quality care to all pregnant people and all children, including in the poorest regions, particularly affected by maternal mortality. Of the 287,000 women who died in such circumstances in 2020, 70% were recorded in sub-Saharan Africa. Sonio's technology, made available to manufacturers of portable ultrasound scanners, will enable healthcare personnel to carry out ultrasounds all over the world to high and verified quality standards. Sonio has identified the mission of meeting the specific needs of these new equipment manufacturers both to equip new non-expert practitioners in developed countries (emergency physicians, general practitioners/midwives in medical deserts) and in developing countries. development.

Cécile Brosset, CEO and co-founder of Sonio states: "This lifting is a pivotal step in the development of Sonio. By supporting our technological and commercial growth, it makes it possible to achieve our mission. I am fortunate to be surrounded by a team of deeply committed experts, and I would like to thank them. Our board of directors is today in the image of Sonio, inscribed in the diversity of men and women, international, and in search of a model of both impact and growth. In a financing universe largely dominated by men, I am delighted to have found partners so aligned with our ambitions and who understood and valued Sonio's mission as well as its strategy and rapid execution capacity."

## **About Sonio:**

Sonio is an Artificial Intelligence solution for prenatal screening and diagnosis with over five years of research and collaborations between leading experts in fetal medicine and artificial intelligence. Sonio's goal is to support the analysis of practitioners in prenatal screening and diagnosis by assuring the completeness of their examination and increasing the accuracy of their patient scan results.

To learn more about Sonio, visit our website <a href="https://sonio.ai/us/">https://sonio.ai/us/</a>

# **About Cross Border Impact Ventures**

Cross-Border Impact Ventures (CBIV) is an impact investor in transformative health technology companies that meet the needs of women, children and adolescents or that make health systems more resilient. Through its Women's and Children's Health Technology Fund, CBIV primarily invests in commercial-stage health technology companies that demonstrate global growth, high performance and potential for impact. CBIV has set an ambitious impact target of 500,000 lives saved and 10 million lives improved in emerging markets across its portfolio companies. For more information, visit crossborder.ventures.

## **About Elaia**

Elaia is a leading European private equity firm with a strong technological DNA. We invest in high-potential digital and deep tech startups, from the seed stage and support them until they become world leaders. For 20 years, our commitment has been to provide financial performance while having strong values. We are proud to have been the leading professional investor in over 100 startups, including many successful ones such as Criteo (Nasdaq), Orchestra Networks (acquired by Tibco), Volterra (acquired by F5), Mirakl (valued 3.5 billion in Series E) and Shift Technology (valued in excess of \$1 billion in Series D). Find out more http://www.elaia.com • @Elaia\_Partners

# **About OneRagtime**

OneRagtime is a new generation venture capital fund founded by Stéphanie Hospital and Jean-Marie Messier and sponsored by experienced digital and investment personalities such as Philippe Bourguignon, Patrick Sayer and Philippe Carle. Since

2017, OneRagtime has selected, financed and supported more than 40 innovative start-ups in France and Europe. Via its platform model and its exclusive community, OneRagtime allows investors to invest in the most beautiful tech startups through its funds or 'club deals', and entrepreneurs to benefit from support and an exceptional network.

### **About the EIC Fund**

The European Commission's EIC Fund is an agnostic fund: it invests in all technologies and all sectors, in all EU countries and countries associated with Horizon Europe. It provides the investment component of the EIC Accelerator Blended Finance. The EIC Fund aims to fill a critical financing gap and its main objective is to support companies in the development and commercialization of disruptive technologies, by connecting and attracting market players, and further sharing risk by building a large network of capital providers and strategic partners suitable for subsequent co-investments and financing. The Fund pays particular attention to empowering and supporting female founders as well as the ambition to close the innovation gap among EU countries.

# **About Bpifrance and the French Tech Seed Fund**

Bpifrance finances companies – at each stage of their development – with loans, guarantees and equity. Bpifrance supports them in their innovation projects and internationally. Bpifrance also ensures their export activity through a wide range of products. Consulting, university, networking and acceleration programs for start-ups, SMEs and ETIs are also part of the offer offered to entrepreneurs.

Thanks to Bpifrance and its 50 regional locations, entrepreneurs benefit from a close, unique and efficient interlocutor to support them in facing their challenges.

More information on: www.Bpifrance.fr – Follow us on Twitter: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse

Endowed with 500 million euros, the French Tech Seed Fund aims to support fundraising for start-ups and innovative VSEs less than 3 years old with technology-intensive innovation. Resulting from the Future Investments Program (PIA) and operated by Bpifrance, the fund relies on certified business contributors, responsible for identifying and qualifying these young shoots and putting them in contact with private investors. These business contributors, guarantors of the technological validity of the project, will allow public investment, in the form of Convertible Bonds of up to 400 million euros, in addition to the capital provided by private investors. 100 million euros are also devoted to equity investments in addition to the conversion of the Convertible Bonds.

#### **About France 2030**

The France 2030 investment plan:

Reflects a dual ambition: to sustainably transform key sectors of our economy (energy, automotive, aeronautics or even space) through technological innovation, and to position France not only as a player, but as a leader in the world of tomorrow. From fundamental research, to the emergence of an idea, to the production of a new product or service, France 2030 supports the entire life cycle of innovation up to its industrialization.

Is unprecedented in its scale: €54 billion will be invested so that our companies, our universities, our research organizations fully succeed in their transitions in these strategic sectors. The challenge: to enable them to respond in a competitive way to the ecological and attractive challenges of the world to come, and to bring out the future leaders of our sectors of excellence. France 2030 is defined by two cross-cutting objectives consisting in devoting 50% of its expenditure to the decarbonisation of the economy, and 50% to emerging players, carriers of innovation without unfavorable expenditure on the environment (in the sense of the Do No principle). Significant Harm). Will be implemented collectively: designed and deployed in consultation with economic, academic, local and European players to determine its strategic orientations and key actions. Project leaders are invited to submit their file via open, demanding and selective procedures to benefit from the support of the State.

Is managed by the General Secretariat for Investment on behalf of the Prime Minister and implemented by the Ecological Transition Agency (ADEME), the National Research

and implemented by the Ecological Transition Agency (ADEME), the National Research Agency (ANR), Bpifrance, Public Investment Bank and the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC).

More information at:

www.gouvernement.fr/secretariat-general-pour-l-investissement-sapi