

# Elaia announces three promotions: Justine Guers, Louisa Mesnard & Emmanuel Perez-Duarte



*From left: Justine Guers, Louisa Mesnard, Emmanuel Perez-Duarte*

**(Paris, France - July 11, 2024)** Elaia, leading tech and deep tech VC fund, announces the promotion of three colleagues: Justine Guers, Louisa Mesnard and Emmanuel Perez-Duarte.

Emmanuel Perez-Duarte, CFO and General Secretary, joins the Elaia partnership. Justine Guers, Chief of Staff at Elaia now takes over the leadership of Strategic Projects and Louisa Mesnard, CMO, is also appointed Head of Sustainability.

These nominations/promotions are representations of the hard work and value created at Elaia since they respectively joined.

Xavier Lazarus, Co-founder and Managing Partner at Elaia explains: *“These three new announcements are not only the recognition of past achievements and strong past performance, but also of stellar future promise. Emmanuel, Justine and Louisa are very deserving of these new roles and each will be instrumental in driving Elaia forward. Our transverse teams are essential to Elaia, and these promotions indicate the strength of the trajectory these functions are piloting.”*

## **About Emmanuel Perez-Duarte**

Emmanuel joined Elaia in 2018 as CFO and became General Secretary in 2022. Before joining Elaia, Emmanuel had cultivated over a decade of experience in financial operations, including at startup Unilend, a French pioneer in crowd-lending, and at the Vranken-Pommery Monopole group. A graduate of HEC, Emmanuel Perez-Duarte began his career at Exane BNP Paribas, followed by time at Renault in the audit, financing and treasury departments. Emmanuel joins the partnership in recognition of

his dedication and leadership as CFO at Elaia, having built out a dedicated team integral to our transverse function.

Emmanuel Perez-Duarte, Partner & CFO said, *“I’m honoured to join Elaia’s partnership and play a larger role in Elaia’s development. As Elaia continues to scale with our many strategic initiatives, the robust quality and support of our operational and transverse functions will be key.”*

### **About Justine Guers**

Justine joined Elaia in 2022 as Chief of Staff. Her nomination as Head of Strategic Projects is reflective of her work ethic and pivotal role in executing the strategic partnership between Lazard and Elaia alongside Xavier Lazarus.

This new scope will encompass the management of all strategic projects that are key to the success both of Elaia and of Lazard Elaia Capital (LEC), the new joint-venture created by Lazard & Elaia to invest in later stage European B2B tech champions - pending AMF approval.

A graduate of HEC, Justine brought several years of startup and operational strategy as Chief of Staff at LumApps and at a French fintech company, across sales, financial and legal operations.

### **About Louisa Mesnard**

Louisa joined Elaia in 2018 to build the Elaia marketing and communications platform and was named CMO in 2020. A graduate of ESSCA and HEC Entrepreneurs, Louisa was the founder and COO of Citron, an AI based recommendation chatbot\*.\*

In addition to her role as CMO, this new complementary appointment as Head of Sustainability is a recognition of her internal efforts to develop and lead Elaia’s ESG practice alongside our internal ESG committee over the past few years. Personally and professionally committed to sustainability in the Elaia portfolio, Louisa also received training from the University of Cambridge’s Institute for Sustainability Leadership in 2023. This new role reflects Elaia’s commitment to continue placing sustainability at the core of our investment process.

### **About Elaia**

Elaia Partners is a European top-tier Venture Capital firm with a strong technology DNA, investing in technology disruptors with global ambition from early stage to growth development. For the past 20 years, our commitment has been to deliver high performance with values. We are proud to have been an active partner in over 100 startups including success stories such as Criteo (Nasdaq), Orchestra Networks (acquired by Tibco), Volterra (acquired by F5), Mirakl (valued \$3.5B in Series E), Shift Technology (valued \$1B+ in Series D), Mablink Bioscience (acquired by Eli Lilly), Aqemia and Alice&Bob.

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