

## Press release

### Ombrea raises €10 million and welcomes Mirova to its capital to accelerate the deployment of its climate protection solutions

The startup [Ombrea](#), in a €10 million fundraising, opens its capital to [Mirova](#), the affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers dedicated to sustainable investing, as lead investor. The CMA-CGM Group, a world leader in maritime transport and logistics, two French entrepreneurs and [Région Sud Investissement](#), one of its historical investors, complete the round.

The objective of this operation for Ombrea is to extend its crop management and protection solutions to farmers who are increasingly dependent on climatic hazards.



**Aix-en-Provence, September 29, 2021** – Ombrea, a startup specialising in crop management and protection in the face of climatic hazards, announces a fundraising of 10 million euros, including 7 million euros finalised this month, which will be supplemented by 3 million euros in debt from its historical banking partners. The company is entering a new phase of its development with the support of responsible and committed investors.

The operation will allow the company to finance the acceleration of the deployment of climate protection and management systems on a larger scale in the agricultural sector. Ombrea intends to increase its R&D and innovation investments to accelerate the optimisation of its solutions and the development of complementary offers, in order to meet the needs of farmers facing climate change. 50 jobs will be created to support this growth by 2023.

#### Protecting crops from climate change

Since its creation in 2016, Ombrea has received particularly strong demand from the agricultural world for solutions to counter the impacts of climate change on crops. According to the sixth IPCC report, the

global temperature is expected to rise by 1.5°C by 2030, and the current trend is towards a warming of 4°C or 5°C<sup>1</sup>.

In 2021, French agriculture is facing unprecedented climate challenges; a spring frost, untimely rains, heatwaves and fires are combining to affect the harvest very badly.

To fight against these effects of climate change and to support farmers, Ombrea has developed a patented climate protection system, which aims to create an optimal microclimate for plant development, even in case of extreme climatic events (frost, drought, heavy rains...).

The innovative Ombrea solution is installed above crops (market gardening, horticulture, viticulture, arboriculture, perfume and medicinal plants) and regulates, through an opening and closing system, the climatic parameters of the plant by dynamic shading.

Ombrea's know-how lies in its ability to intelligently control its tool in order to adapt the microclimate to the precise needs of the crops. The company has developed models to automatically control the tool in the face of climatic hazards. The Ombrea solution is also equipped with photovoltaic panels, the secondary production of renewable energy ensures the economic viability of the investment and operation of the installation.

#### Positive results on crops

Ombrea optimizes the plant's climatic conditions to reduce water requirements, while increasing agricultural yields and crop quality.

Results on grapevine and peonies\*:

- Water saving: -30% water saving in summer (peony)
- Increased floral quality: 99% higher quality flowers and +17% yield
- Limitation of stressful conditions (heat, water and oxidative stress)
- A systematically lower ground temperature (-6°C to 10 cm on the hottest days)
- Decrease of the temperature at the cluster level (-2.2°C under Ombrea in summer)

\*Scientific studies conducted with independent organizations;

- on the peony in partnership with the Technical Institute of Horticulture, Astredhor Mediterranean

- on the vine with the French Institute of Vine and Wine (IFV) and the Société du Canal de Provence (SCP).



Credits: Ombrea

- *“Ombrea is giving itself the means to deploy the best climate protection solution and extend it to a larger number of farmers. The challenges of the agricultural world are numerous and our efforts in agronomic research and innovation are designed to meet them.”* said **Julie Davico-Pahin, Co-founder & CEO of Ombrea**
- *"Ombrea is an innovative tool that has proven its ability to control crop climate. Our vision is reinforced: to combine sustainable, resilient and efficient agriculture. We are convinced that*

<sup>1</sup> Source: IPCC climate report: an alarming finding - [www.vie-publique.fr](http://www.vie-publique.fr)

*Ombrea must continue to work in this direction to support farmers face climate hazards. »*  
Said **Christian Davico, Co-founder & President**

- "Ombrea is the first investment in our new Impact private equity strategy. Mirova was created in 2014 with the ambition of financing projects and companies that allow the transition of the economy towards a sustainable model, particularly from an environmental and climate point of view. We are therefore delighted to support the teams of Ombrea, an innovative company that puts technology at the service of agriculture," said **Marc Romano, Director of Impact Private Equity at Mirova**
- "Since 2019, REGION SUD INVESTISSEMENT has been following the company's journey with as much enthusiasm as ever. Thanks to its solid and motivated team, the company has been able to concretize strong industrial partnerships and build an original and efficient agrivoltaic business model. It is one of the "flagship" companies in our portfolio. And that is why we are particularly pleased to continue the adventure in this new phase of development" adds **Pierre Joubert, Managing Director at Région Sud Investissement**

#### About Ombrea:

Created in October 2016 in Aix-en-Provence and coming from the agricultural world, Ombrea is developing a dynamic agrivoltaic solution installed above crops (market gardening, horticulture, viticulture, perfume plants) to mitigate the effects of climate change. Closely linked to all the actors and institutions of the sector, its tool has demonstrated effectiveness on the treated crops. In full growth, Ombrea currently has a team of 40 employees. It raised its first €1 million in 2019 alongside Région Sud Investissement, CAAP Création and Alumni Business Angels.

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#### About Mirova

Mirova is a management company dedicated to sustainable investment and an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers. Through its conviction management, Mirova's goal is to combine long-term value creation and sustainable development. Pioneers in many areas of sustainable finance, Mirova's talents aim to continue to innovate in order to offer their clients solutions with high environmental and social impact. Mirova and its affiliates manage 23,6 billion euros as of June 30, 2021. Mirova is a mission-based company, labeled B Corp<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The reference to a ranking or a label does not prejudice the future performance of the funds or its managers.

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### About Natixis Investment Managers

Natixis Investment Managers serves financial professionals with more insightful ways to construct portfolios. Powered by the expertise of more than 20 specialized investment managers globally, we apply Active Thinking® to deliver proactive solutions that help clients pursue better outcomes in all markets. Natixis Investment Managers ranks among the world's largest asset management firms<sup>1</sup> with €1,153 billion assets under management<sup>2</sup>. Headquartered in Paris and Boston, Natixis Investment Managers is a subsidiary of Natixis. Listed on the Paris Stock Exchange, Natixis is a subsidiary of BPCE, the second-largest banking group in France. Natixis Investment Managers' distribution and service groups include Natixis Distribution, L.P., a limited purpose broker-dealer and the distributor of various U.S. registered investment companies for which advisory services are provided by affiliated firms of Natixis Investment Managers, Natixis Investment Managers S.A. (Luxembourg), Natixis Investment Managers International (France), and their affiliated distribution and service entities in Europe and Asia.

*1 Cerulli Quantitative Update: Global Markets 2020 ranked Natixis Investment Managers as the 17th largest asset manager in the world based on assets under management as of December 31, 2019.*

*2 Assets under management ("AUM") as of March 31, 2021 is €1,153 billion. AUM, as reported, may include notional assets, assets serviced, gross assets, assets of minority-owned affiliated entities and other types of non-regulatory AUM managed or serviced by firms affiliated with Natixis Investment Managers.*

### About Région Sud Investissement (RSI):

Région Sud Investissement is the regional investment company created in 2010 by the Région Sud to support the emergence and development of growth companies. Région Sud Investissement, endowed with €134 million, benefits from Europe's support through the ERDF fund to the tune of 42% of its capacity. Région Sud Investissement is advised by Turenne Groupe on the management of its equity participations.

[www.regionsudinvestissement.com](http://www.regionsudinvestissement.com)

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