



## PRESS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 17th, 2022

### **DUST MOBILE RAISES €12 MILLION IN SERIES B FINANCING LED BY THE INNOVATION DEFENSE FUND, MANAGED BY BPIFRANCE, TIKEHAU ACE CAPITAL AND OMNES TO SUPPORT ITS GROWTH AND ITS CYBER DEFENSE SOLUTION CYBERCELL**

**Brussels / Paris, November 17, 2022**

**Dust Mobile, the leading mobile cyber-defense operator, announces a €12 million Series B round of financing led by the Defense Innovation Fund, managed by Bpifrance and subscribed by the Defense Innovation Agency (AID), designed to support innovation in dual and cross-functional technologies, along with historical investors Tikehau Ace Capital, the European leader in digital security private equity, via the Brienne III fund (a fund dedicated to cybersecurity), and OMNES Capital, a major player in private equity and infrastructure investment.**

Dust Mobile offers a secure-by-design cyber defense solution for mobile communications. The user benefits from global coverage, protection, detection, real-time alerting of attacks and automatic execution of countermeasures. Thanks to its SIM Cybercell technology, compatible with any connected devices or applications, the solution protects against attacks on mobile cellular networks and attacks on SIM cards. It therefore completes efficiently the mobile communications security chain and the cyber ecosystem already in place.

Founded in 2017 by François d'Ormesson and Jean Michel Henrard, the company then launched the first solution that addresses the security of critical mobile communications in the face of cyber threats related to transmissions, signaling protocols (SS7, Diameter, GTP, SIP, Camel, ...) and vulnerabilities intrinsic to cellular mobile networks.

Today, with more than 684 mobile operator partners worldwide, Dust Mobile brings a high level of resiliency and security to governments and enterprises in 214 countries and territories.

Since its creation, Dust Mobile has received numerous awards: it is the winner of the Grand Défi Cyber (France 1st Minister) and the winner of Mobility for Business. Telecommunications operator registered in France with ARCEP and in Belgium with IPBT, Dust Mobile is a member of the international telecommunications bodies ITU, GSMA, 3GPP, ETSI, RIPE and in particular of the GSMA "Security & Fraud" and ITU SG17 groups. More recently, Dust Mobile has joined the Cercle de l'Arbalète.

This new round of financing will enable the company to accelerate its development in Europe and abroad, strengthen its operational and commercial resources, and implement new services for a unique customer experience, while continuing to develop its technological lead and competitive advantages.

*"We are thrilled with this new stage of acceleration in our development. Dust Mobile's mission is to help companies and governments protect themselves from cyber threats, which are increasingly targeting cell phones and other connected objects," says **Jean Michel Henrard, CEO and co-founder of Dust Mobile**, "Cyber defenses are extremely limited when it comes to attacks on inter-operator transmissions and signaling. These increasingly sophisticated attacks allow for remote interception of mobile communications, real-time geolocation of equipment, targeted denial of service, and digital identity theft, all without detection by users. The support of our funds will enable companies and governments to protect themselves more effectively."*

**Nicolas Berdou, Investor for the Defense Innovation Fund at Bpifrance**, states: *"The cyber defense of companies in the Defense industrial and technological core and of governmental organizations is key to face the permanent threats to our know-how and our sovereignty. Supporting the scaling up of Dust Mobile's innovative and dual solution to protect telecommunications is at the heart of the Defense Innovation Fund's strategy."*

*"Dust Mobile has made a significant impact in the industry by addressing an identified weakness in mobile communications. We are excited to continue to support their growth as they continue to meet the growing security needs of businesses and governments with their highly efficient and easy-to-use technology," add **Quentin Besnard, Tikehau Ace Capital**.*

*"In the face of increasingly numerous, sophisticated and lethal cyber threats, and with a view to creating sovereign European cyber solutions, our support for Dust Mobile was a no-brainer," affirm **Michel de Lempdes, Managing Partner, Omnes**.*

#### **About Dust Mobile (<https://dustmobile.com/>)**

Founded in 2017, Based in Belgium and France, Dust Mobile is the leading mobile cyber defense operator. Its Cybercell solution protects sensitive mobile communications and natively integrates global resilient connectivity, protection, detection, real-time attack escalation and countermeasure application. The solution is a complementary tool for cyber defense of mobile communications effective anywhere in the world, compatible with any sovereign encryption application and usable with any connected equipment (smartphone, tablet, tracker, ...). Its objectives are to gain sovereignty and improve the resilience of communications. Its customers are mainly in Europe and North America. The technological innovation takes the form of a proprietary, hardened, and controlled SIM card combined with a mobile operator infrastructure dedicated to security, which enables secure communications from 684 mobile networks worldwide.

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#### **About Fonds Innovation Défense and Bpifrance**

Created in 2020 by the Ministry of the Armed Forces on the initiative of the French Defense Innovation Agency and managed by Bpifrance, the Defense Innovation Fund supports the growth and development of innovative companies whose dual technologies are of particular interest to the defense sector,

through equity and quasi-equity investments. Endowed with €200 million, the fund contributes to the emergence of new players of critical size at the French and European level.

Bpifrance Investissement is the management company that handles Bpifrance's equity investments. Bpifrance is the French national investment bank: it finances businesses – at every stage of their development – through loans, guarantees, equity investments and export insurances. Bpifrance also provides extra financial services (training, consultancy) to help entrepreneurs meet their challenges (innovation, export...).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bpifrance.com>

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**About Tikehau Ace Capital ([www.tikehau-ace.capital](http://www.tikehau-ace.capital) )**

Tikehau Ace Capital is a private equity firm specializing in industrial and technology sectors, with €1.3 billion in assets under management. Founded in 2000, Tikehau Ace Capital invests with a vertical approach, within strategic industries and technologies (aerospace, defense, cyber security, etc.). Tikehau Ace Capital has built its model on partnerships with major groups investing in its funds (notably Airbus, Safran, Dassault Aviation, Thales, EDF, Naval Group, Sopra Steria). As an expert in these sectors and with a strong entrepreneurial and industrial culture, Tikehau Ace Capital supports the development of its investments over time with a differentiated strategy.

Tikehau Ace is present in Paris, Toulouse and Madrid, and benefits from the worldwide presence of Tikehau Capital.

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**Omnes (<https://www.omnescapital.com/>)**

Omnes is a major player in private equity and infrastructure. With more than €5 billion in assets under management, Omnes provides companies with the equity capital they need to grow through its three core businesses: Venture Capital, Expansion Capital & LBO and Infrastructure. Omnes is 100% owned by its employees. Omnes is committed to ESG issues. The company has created the Omnes Foundation in favor of children and youth. It is a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). **Press contact:**

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