



PRESS RELEASE, July 19th 2018

Demeter announces the 1st closing of *Agrinnovation Fund*, dedicated to innovative companies in the Agri-Food sector

Paris, July 19th, 2018 - Demeter, major European capital investment firm for the energy and ecological transition, announces the launch of its new *Agrinnovation Fund*. This investment fund is targeting early-stage innovative companies adding more sustainability in the field of agriculture and food.

Agrinnovation Fund has already raised 45 m€ from Institutional investors, Corporates and Family Offices. The fund attracted major players of the agricultural sector, such as *Groupe Soufflet*, *Elephant Vert*, *Unigrains*, *Exel Industries* and *Groupe Rocher* through its family holding. Additional Institutional investors and key players in the field of Agro-industry are expected to join the fund soon to reach a target size of 70 m€.

With an extensive experience in the Agri-food sector through an existing portfolio of 15 companies in that area and a team of seasoned investment professionals, the fund will be investing in 20 companies across Europe. Targeted companies will develop innovative technologies and services towards a more sustainable, efficient and safer agriculture and food: bio-inputs, precision agriculture, ingredients, bio-based chemistry, safety & traceability.

Eric Marty, General Partner at Demeter: "We are very proud of this 1st closing that strengthens our presence in this fast-growing sector. *Agrinnovation* will provide capital to innovative companies at early stage and is aiming to address one of the major challenges of the coming decades: produce more in a world constrained by climate change, the need to reduce the use of chemical inputs and a changing consumer demand. We strongly believe, as our investors, that this fund will invest and raise the champions that will allow to face all these challenges."

Riad Shaiek, Partner at Demeter: "We see a strong entrepreneurial drive for several months in the sector and the deal flow processed by the *Agrinnovation* team is very important. Start-ups are addressing the whole value-chain needs and demonstrate strong innovation capabilities, characterized by both technological breakthroughs and innovative business models."

About Demeter

Demeter (www.demeter-im.com) is a major European player in venture capital and private equity for the energy and ecological transition. Its funds invest from €1m to €30m to support companies in the sector at all stages of their development: innovative startups, small and mid-cap companies, as well as infrastructure projects. The Demeter team counts 33 people based in Paris, Grenoble, Metz, Madrid, manages €1bn and has completed 120 investments over 12 years.

Contact: Riadh Shaiek, +33 180 181 122, media@demeter-im.com