

**Allergen Alert***test your plate, eat safe***PRESS RELEASE****LE 14 OCTOBRE 2025****Allergen Alert raises €3.6 million to accelerate the roadmap of its rapid allergen and gluten detection solution for consumers and professionals.**

Lyon, October 14, 2025 – ALLERGEN ALERT, a French Deeptech startup, designs and manufactures an innovative solution for the rapid detection of food allergens and gluten, dedicated to people living with food allergies. The company has just completed a €3.6 million fundraising round with Demeter, through the Fonds d'Amorçage Industriel Métropolitain (FAIM) Lyon/Saint-Étienne, and bioMérieux, also supported by a banking pool including Bpifrance and private banks.

The creation of Allergen Alert is deeply rooted in the personal story of its founder and CEO, Bénédicte Astier. In 2022, after her daughter suffered a severe anaphylactic shock caused by a food allergy, Bénédicte began an intrapreneurship initiative within bioMérieux. Her idea: to miniaturize a bioMérieux technology used for detecting viruses and bacteria, and apply it to food allergen detection directly in meals.

bioMérieux played a key role by granting Allergen Alert an exclusive license for the technology — the result of several years of R&D — transferring industrial assets (including a manufacturing line), and financing the project with the collaboration of 2 persons in R&D.

The startup was officially founded in 2024 by Bénédicte Astier, former Quality Manager at bioMérieux, who left the company to lead Allergen Alert. Her vision is clear: to reduce the risk of allergen exposure and improve the quality of life for people living with food allergies and celiac disease, who face strict dietary restrictions.

Food allergies are ranked 4th among diseases according to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and the severity of reactions can be life-threatening; it is a **major public health issue**.

Around 6% of Europeans and 9% of Americans are affected by food allergies. In France, the national health agency ANSES reports that food allergy prevalence has doubled in the past decade, affecting 3.5% of adults and 8% of children. This alarming rise is accompanied by an increase in severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), driven by lifestyle and environmental factors such as reduced biodiversity, dietary habits, and pollution.

Based in Lyon (France), Allergen Alert is developing a portable, rapid, and reliable **solution that can detect allergens and gluten in food within minutes. Created in collaboration with allergists, emergency physicians, patients, and patient associations, this innovation acts as a miniature laboratory for everyone.**

The company will market its device to individuals and professionals (hospitality, catering, tourism) for the detection of the most common and critical allergens. Within three years, Allergen Alert aims to cover the nine major allergens, and **expand into other needs identified by users and partners in food service and healthcare.**

The fundraising will allow Allergen Alert to finalize the **technical developments of its solution, structure its organization, accelerate the industrialization** of its production tool, and start pre-sales in order to prepare for the next stage of a larger-scale launch.

“Allergen Alert was born after my daughter Margot was admitted to intensive care following a simple meal at school. That night, I decided to dedicate my experience and energy to one mission — improving Margot’s life and the lives of millions of people for whom a single bite can be fatal. Technology should serve health — it can change lives.

I thank Demeter via the FAIM fund for their trust, bioMérieux for their support from day one, and Bpifrance and our private banking partners for believing in our mission. This funding marks a major step forward in accelerating our roadmap.

Tomorrow, we will make a portable mini-laboratory available to everyone, empowering better decisions about food — and health,” says **Bénédicte Astier, CEO of Allergen Alert.**

“Allergen Alert operates in a true *blue ocean*. Currently, there are no viable allergen detection solutions for patients — only curative measures like adrenaline injections — and labeling alone is insufficient.

Allergen Alert addresses a growing food safety issue and its consequences on healthcare systems, medication costs, and social inclusion. Its strong societal impact and industrial assets convinced us to invest,” adds **Quentin Mulaton, Investment Manager at Demeter.**

“At bioMérieux, we are proud to have supported Allergen Alert since its inception.

This innovation, built on one of our advanced technologies, meets a crucial need for both consumers and professionals and will contribute to improving global public health. It’s also a remarkable entrepreneurial story — born from our intrapreneurship program — now growing beyond our walls. Congratulations to Bénédicte Astier for her dedication, and long life to Allergen Alert!” declares **Pierre Boulud, CEO of bioMérieux.**

Transaction participants:

Demeter : Quentin Mulaton, Christophe Desrumaux, Valentine Clinkspoor

Advisors :

Legal (Company) : **Lamy Lexel**, Manon Pourcher, Florent Roy, Clothilde Herault, Mathilde Trannoy, Valentine Fayette et Aurélie Dantzikian Frachon

Legal (Investors) :

- For Demeter : **Joffe & Associés**, Thomas Saltiel, Paddy Pascot
- For bioMérieux SA : **YFC Avocats**, Yann Freyria, Antoine Riom

Financial Audit : **BM&A**, Pierre-Emmanuel Passelègue, Matthieu Schaller

IP Audit : **Plasseraud**, Denis Bourgarel, Charlotte Montaud.

HR Audit : **Chantal Baudron**, Valérie Carré Macron

ESG Audit : **Greenflex**, Camille Poutrin, Clothilde Mathieu, Antoine Chouabe

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About Demeter

Demeter is a leading European investment firm specializing in venture capital, growth capital, and infrastructure in the energy and ecological transition. Its funds invest between €1 million and €30 million to support innovative companies across all stages of development. With a team of 37 people based in Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, Madrid, and Düsseldorf, Demeter manages €1.5 billion in assets and has completed over 200 investments since 2005.

The Lyon team manages the Fonds d'Amorçage Industriel Métropolitain (FAIM).

More info: www.demeter-im.com

About FAIM Lyon – Saint-Etienne

FAIM (Fonds d'Amorçage Industriel Métropolitain) is a seed and venture capital fund designed to support productive activities with high social or environmental value in the metropolitan areas of Lyon and Saint-Etienne. With a capital of 70 million euros, it receives support from public actors, including the Lyon and Saint-Etienne Metropolises, which have committed 17 million and 5 million euros respectively, as well as from the Banque des Territoires, acting on behalf of the State under the France 2030 Program "Territories of Innovation," with 10 million euros. The fund also attracts numerous private investors, bringing together both industrial players and institutional actors. It is classified under "Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation article 9," the highest standard in sustainable investment.

More information : <https://demeter-im.com/faim/>

About bioMérieux

Pioneering Diagnostics

A global player in the field of in vitro diagnostics since 1963, bioMérieux is present in 45 countries and serves more than 160 countries through a wide network of distributors. In 2024, bioMérieux's revenue reached 4 billion euros, with over 93% generated internationally (outside France).

bioMérieux offers diagnostic solutions (systems, reagents, software, and services) that determine the origin of a disease or contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are primarily used for the diagnosis of infectious diseases. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic products.

More information : www.biomerieux.com

About Allergen Alert

Allergen Alert is a startup, founded in October 2024, aimed at improving the lives of patients with food allergies and celiac disease by providing a portable, fast, and reliable solution for detecting allergens and gluten in meals, anywhere and anytime. This solution is also intended for the restaurant and tourism sectors, which face food safety challenges.

The ambition is to become the leader in providing a mini portable laboratory to non-health professionals, in order to better control our food and therefore our health, thanks to qualitative data.

More information : <https://www.allergen-alert.com>