

## Press release – Wattlez

### **Wattlez strengthens its position in the circular economy with its new majority shareholder Yotta Capital**

Poissy (78), July 19, 2022 – **Wattlez, a specialist in protective and accessibility equipment, reorganizes its shareholding structure with Yotta Capital, the new majority shareholder and the first investment fund dedicated to the development and decarbonisation of French industrial SMEs.**

Founded in 1885, Wattlez has established itself over the years as an expert in elastomer solutions for the protection of adults and children, accessibility for people with disabilities, and the protection of buildings and industrial equipment.

Wattlez works closely with its network of B2B distributor partners (hardware stores, industrialists, and floor fitters) in order to offer municipalities, building professionals and industrialists a complete range of innovative equipment, designed and manufactured entirely in France, at its production unit in Ile de France, close to Paris.

The new majority shareholder Yotta Capital intends to support and accompany the industrial and commercial transformation strategy led by CEO Antoine Soulas by putting product innovation at the heart of its mission to reduce the risk of accidents to people.

Antoine Soulas, CEO of Wattlez, comments: "Since my arrival at the beginning of 2020, I have been working on a new roadmap aimed at improving the commercial and industrial organization, rationalize the product portfolio and revitalize innovation. Today Wattlez is on track for growth. The objective for the next few years is to make Wattlez a committed player in the circular economy".

Yotta Capital will support Wattlez' teams, taking environmental issues into account. Thanks to the recovery of aggregates from rubber recycling, the company is already responding to the logic of the circular economy. The objective is to continue these efforts and to initiate new projects aimed at increasing the circularity of products, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the value chain. As explained by Xavier Herrmann, Founding Partner of Yotta Capital, "a product made from recycled rubber means 10 times less CO2 emissions, and the same amount of plastic that will not be incinerated or worse, end up in nature. Wattlez is one of the few companies that offer recovery opportunities and there is still a lot of potential to reconcile development and environmental sobriety."

Convinced of this potential, the former major shareholder, Targa Capital, is reinvesting alongside Yotta Capital and CEO Antoine Soulas. Sylvain Campion, Founding Partner of Targa Capital, points out that "Targa Capital has supported a first stage aimed at ensuring the efficacy of Wattlez, and structuring the company to enable growth. This stage was brilliantly completed by CEO Antoine Soulas. Now the time has come to embark on a new business project"

#### **About Wattlez**

Founded in 1885, Wattlez has genuine expertise in vulcanized rubber and thermoplastic elastomers used in the manufacture of equipment for the protection of people, buildings and industrial equipment.

Currently, Wattlez has around 40 employees and revenue of over 8 million euros.

**More information on:** <https://wattlez.com/>

### **About Yotta Capital Partners**

Yotta Capital Partners is the first growth capital and buyout fund dedicated to the Industry of the Future. With 25 years of experience, its hybrid team is made up of recognized private equity professionals and highly experienced industrial profiles. Committed to the environment, Yotta Capital Partners invests in French industrial SME, which it supports in their modernization, growth and decarbonization, thus enabling them to take the next step in the 4th industrial revolution. Yotta Capital is a member of the International Climate Initiative, a signatory of the UN's PRI, and has been awarded the "Label Relance" by the French government.

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### **About Targa Capital**

Targa Capital is an investment company made up of more than twenty business leaders, whose aim is to invest in SME in order to provide these companies with the financial and technical means for the implementation their development plans or for the company's succession. Since its creation in 2011, Targa Capital has made 15 investments, mainly in industrial companies. The philosophy of Targa Capital is to be a long-term investor, participating in the life of the company, without interfering in the management. In each of its holdings, Targa Capital implements a model of support for the management teams through monthly management meetings, in which Targa Capital's two partners, who have taken part in the investment project, systematically participate. In this way, Targa Capital brings the skills of former business leaders to bear on strategy and management of SMEs. In each of its investments, Targa Capital implements tools and methods that enable companies to improve the efficiency of their organization.

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