

Aix-en-Provence, May 21, 2026

## OTRERA Secures €17 Million in Additional Funding to Accelerate Development of Its 4th-Generation Fast Neutron Reactor

French deep-tech nuclear startup **Otrera New Energy** announces a €17 million funding round, comprising equity and grants from **France 2030**. This round brings together a prestigious ecosystem of strategic shareholders, including **Groupe ADF, Groupe EDF, Exergon Fund, Ingerop, Fortil Group, Normandie Participations, Onet Technologies, REEL Group, and SNEF Group**.

This new milestone marks the program's entry into an **advanced engineering and industrial preparation phase**, with a clear ambition: to develop a new generation of **compact, competitive nuclear reactors** designed for industrial deployment.

Founded to advance a **sodium-cooled fast neutron reactor (SFR)**, Otrera builds on decades of French expertise in this field while rethinking key aspects of the traditional design to create an architecture better suited to contemporary challenges—**competitiveness, safety, industrialization, and energy sovereignty**.

### A New Phase of Industrial Maturity

The secured funding will enable Otrera to embark on a new development phase, including:

- Launching the **Detailed Preliminary Design (APD)**,
- Validating technological choices through **dedicated testing facilities**,
- Expanding **engineering, safety, and industrialization teams**,
- Structuring and accelerating the **industrial supply chain**
- Initiating the first **operational studies and actions** for the factory project, in preparation for the industrialization of critical components.

Following the completion of preliminary design studies, the transition to the **APD phase** represents a major step in the program's maturation. It will deepen design studies, consolidate safety demonstrations, size key components, and prepare for future regulatory and industrial milestones.

## A Structured Industrial Ecosystem and a French Industrial Ambition

In a context of **nuclear revival** and the search for **sovereign, decarbonized energy solutions**, Otrera aims to contribute to rebuilding France's industrial capacity in **advanced nuclear technologies**.

Otrera is progressively building an **industrial ecosystem** around its program, uniting engineering firms, equipment manufacturers, and nuclear supply chain actors. This momentum has led to **technological and industrial collaborations** in France and abroad, as well as the announcement of its future **industrial site in Normandy, near Cherbourg**.

This factory will ultimately prepare for the **manufacturing and assembly of critical components** needed for the serial deployment of future reactors.

## A Strategic Funding Round Uniting Leaders of the French Nuclear Sector

Otrera New Energy has assembled a consortium of **reference shareholders**, demonstrating the strong interest from investment funds and the French nuclear industry in its technology and development trajectory:

- **GROUPE ADF** – A major player in industrial services, providing end-to-end, high-value-added solutions.

*"We are proud to support Otrera, which is developing an innovative and pragmatic solution for 4th-generation reactors. With our expertise in designing and manufacturing pressure equipment, as well as our support for industrialization through automated, robotized, and digitalized assembly lines, Groupe ADF helps optimize Otrera's time-to-market."* **Stéphane Langrand, CEO of Groupe ADF**

- **Groupe EDF** – Europe's leading producer of decarbonized electricity and a historic player in France's sodium reactor sector.

*"By taking a minority stake in OTRERA, the EDF Group supports the R&D efforts led by the company on sodium-cooled fast reactors and monitors the evolution of this technology. EDF welcomes the dynamism of the French and European ecosystem for innovative reactors and remains attentive to advancements that could contribute, in the long term, to energy sovereignty and decarbonization."*

**Bernard Salha, CTO and R&D Director of EDF**

- **Fortil Group** – Engineering and technology consulting group.
- **Exergon Fund** – Investment fund supporting high-potential deep-tech companies.

*"Since the first funding round, we have enthusiastically supported Otrera's team and vision. Frédéric Varaine's recognized expertise in sodium-cooled fast reactors, combined with Jean-Eric Lucas' financial acumen and dynamism, provides a particularly solid foundation for the project. The innovative nature and technical quality of their design further reinforce our conviction that Otrera has the potential to become a major player in sovereign, safe, and decarbonized electricity and heat production."*

**Giuseppe Sangiovanni, Managing Partner Exergon**

- **Ingerop** – International engineering and consulting group, with strong expertise in energy transition and nuclear.

*"Participating in this funding round was a natural and essential step to accelerate the development of the nuclear sector."* **Yves Metz, Chairman of Ingerop Group**

- **Normandie Participations** – Investment fund created in 2016 by the Normandy Region to support local industrial development.

*"Intrigued by Otrera's innovative approach, the Normandy Region has strongly mobilized to facilitate the company's establishment through support and financial mechanisms. This commitment reflects Normandy's ambition to structure a forward-looking industrial sector around nuclear and new technologies."*

**Stéphanie Chapiteau, Director of Normandie Participations**

- **ONET Technologies** – Leading provider of nuclear services, specializing in mechanical assembly, engineering, maintenance, critical component supply, radiation protection, and decommissioning.

*"Onet Technologies' involvement in OTRERA aligns with our commitment to actively contribute to the emergence of innovative, safe, and competitive nuclear solutions. It also reflects our willingness to leverage our expertise for the most promising new nuclear projects. This new phase of OTRERA's development highlights the dynamism of the French nuclear sector and the ability of industrial players to mobilize for energy and climate challenges."*

**Alain Gauvin, CEO of Onet Technologies**

- **REEL Group** – Recognized specialist in mechanical systems and nuclear handling equipment, serving the nuclear industry for over 60 years.

*"We have supported OTRERA from the beginning and were immediately impressed by the maturity and pragmatism of its solutions. We are convinced of the relevance of reviving the fast neutron reactor sector. We contribute our experience in handling and heat exchange technologies and are pleased to see Otrera's team constantly progressing in reactor definition. We welcome this capital increase and enthusiastically participate in the success of this strategic program."*

**Olivier Demarthe, COO of REEL Group**

- **SNEF Group** – Engineering and multi-energy technical services group, expert in sensitive industrial installations.

The composition of this funding round reflects a clear ambition: **to build, from the outset, the industrial ecosystem that will support Otrera until the realization of its first precursor reactor for commercial deployment.**

*"This funding round is a structuring milestone for OTRERA. It allows us to accelerate the program's maturation by relying on a solid industrial and financial ecosystem. Our approach remains unchanged: progress methodically, consolidate technical choices, structure industrial partnerships, and rigorously reduce risks. Advanced nuclear requires time, excellence, and a long-term industrial vision. By bringing together EDF Group, renowned investment funds, and prestigious industrial players from the nuclear supply chain, we are laying the foundations for the revival of 4th-generation nuclear energy today."*

— **Frédéric Varaine, Founder and President of Otrera New Energy**

*"This is a decisive step forward."*

— **Jean-Éric Lucas, Vice-President and Co-Founder of Otrera New Energy**

## Next Steps

Building on this first structuring funding round, **Otrera New Energy** announces its intention to launch, **by the end of 2026**, a new funding round of **at least €40 million**. This third round will fund the company's operational and technical scaling, including:

- Continued **advanced engineering studies**,
- Increasing the **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** of critical components
- Strengthening **industrial partnerships**
- Accelerating the **factory project**.

## About Otrera New Energy

Founded by **Frédéric Varaine** and **Jean-Eric Lucas**, **Otrera New Energy** is a French deep-tech startup, a **CEA spin-off**, specializing in the development of a **4th-generation sodium-cooled fast neutron reactor (SFR)**. Building on France's legacy programs (**Rapsodie, Phénix, Superphénix, ASTRID**), the company is developing a **compact, modular, and decarbonized technology** tailored to energy sovereignty and industrial decarbonization challenges. Otrera is based in **Aix-en-Provence**.

For more information : <https://otrera.fr/>

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