

Issue of Bpifrance's inaugural benchmark 7-year green bond for an amount of EUR1.25bn

Bpifrance, rated Aa2 (Moody's) / AA (Fitch), today successfully issued its inaugural green bond via its new "Green Bond Framework" for an amount of EUR1.25bn due 25 May 2028, offering a yield of -0.014%. This new benchmark issue was priced with a spread of 18bps above the French sovereign curve. The leaders of the transaction were BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole CIB, HSBC, J.P. Morgan and Société Générale. Bpifrance's Green Bond received massive support from investors, with a final order book reaching above EUR4.3bn of investors' interest (excluding JLMs interest), Bpifrance's largest order book ever achieved.

This is the first green bond launched by Bpifrance. The proceeds of the bond will be entirely used to finance or refinance wind and solar projects in France. Bpifrance plays a key role in the environmental and energy transition of French companies, being a historical player in the green transition. The new Green Bond lies at the heart of Bpifrance's long-term strategy, which seeks to contribute to the environmental sustainability and energy transition as a main priority.

In line with the government's stimulus plan, la Banque des Territoires and Bpifrance launched a common Climate Plan 2020/2024 of nearly EUR40bn in September 2020. This Climate Plan is based on three pillars: 1. Accelerating business transition and transformation of companies and territories' local authorities with financial and support solutions, 2. Supporting the development of renewable energies (ENR) and contributing to the emergence of international champions, 3. Funding and significantly supporting innovation in Greentechs and in sustainable and resilient networks to find technological solutions for TEE. Bpifrance aims to support the Green transition projects from both private companies and local public players in the Green Tech and Renewable Energy sectors alike.

According to **the Deputy CEO of Bpifrance, Arnaud Caudoux**, "Bpifrance is the French climate bank, dedicating more and more human and financial resources to accelerate the growth of renewable energies, to help and finance entrepreneurs on their way to a net zero world, and to invest in the development of new technological solutions. We are thankful to the investors in this new bond that encourage us and give us the means to go further and faster".

Key points of Bpifrance's Green Bond Framework:

Bpifrance's *Green Bond Framework* has been prepared according to the *2018 ICMA Green Bond Principles* and in anticipation of future regulatory developments in connection with the preliminary version of the *European Union Green Bond Standards*. Bpifrance took into consideration the recommendations of the *Technical Expert Group* on the *EU Taxonomy* report published in March 2020.

The *Green Bond Framework* obtained a Second Party Opinion from Cicero, confirming its alignment with the *ICMA Green Bond Principles* and the draft version of the *European Union Green Bond Standards*. Cicero awarded Bpifrance with a "Dark Green" rating, i.e. the highest level on its rating scale.

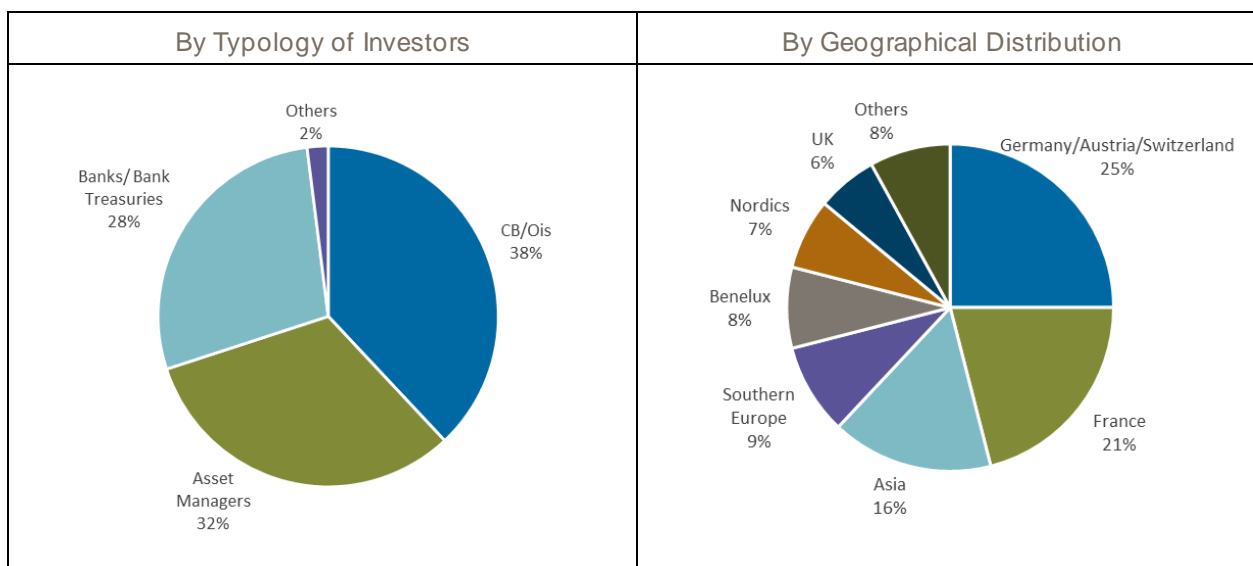
Bpifrance will publish an impact report alongside the publication of its Annual Report, detailing the distribution of allocated funds, as well as the performance indicators of the portfolio and the impact of "Eligible projects" (in particular the estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions) (tCO₂e)



Execution highlights

- On Thursday April 22, 2021, Bpifrance mandated BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole CIB, HSBC, J.P. Morgan and Société Générale to arrange a series of investor calls to present its new *Green Bond Framework*, announcing that a EUR 7-year inaugural green benchmark might follow subject to market conditions.
- Following positive feedback from investors, on Thursday April 29 at 8:56 am CET, Bpifrance formally announced the mandate for their inaugural green issue due May 25, 2028 by opening the order book with a initial spread guidance of OAT May 2028+21 bps. At 10:55 CET, the order book exceeded 3.7 billion euros allowing Bpifrance to revise the spread guidance to OAT May 2028+18 bps.
- Investor demand grew steadily through the European morning and the orderbook reached above EUR4.3bn at 11:36 CET.
- With 144 unique investors participating in the transaction, the diversity of investor demand is a true testimony of the strong investor support for Bpifrance and its missions.
- The geographical distribution highlights a truly pan-European distribution represented mainly by Germany / Austria/ Switzerland (25%) and France (21%), and Southern Europe (9%). The structural demand for quality liquid assets in ESG format explains the strong presence of bank treasuries (28%) and asset managers (32%).

Distribution





Main terms of the 7-year green bond

Transmitter	Bpifrance
Issuer rating	Aa2 (Moody's) / AA (Fitch)
Format	Green bond issue
Issue amount	EUR1.25bn
Release date	April 29, 2021
Settlement date	May 6, 2021
Deadline	May 25, 2028
Coupon	0%
Re-Offer Margin	OAT May 2028+18 bps
Re-Offer Yield	-0.014%
ISIN	FR0014003C70
stock Exchange	Euronext Paris
Leaders	BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole CIB, HSBC, J.P. Morgan, Société Générale

About Bpifrance

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 extrafinancial services (training, consultancy) to help entrepreneurs meet their challenges (innovation, export...).

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Press contact:

Nathalie Police

Phone. : 01 41 79 95 26
nathalie.police@bpifrance.fr