

Donecle Raises €10 Million to Scale Up Drone and AI-Based Aviation Inspection

Toulouse, April 15, 2026 – Donecle, a startup specializing in automated aircraft inspection using autonomous drones and artificial intelligence, announces a new €10 million funding round led jointly by IRDI Capital Investissement and SWEN Capital Partners, with the participation of GSO Innovation and ARIS Occitanie. The funding round will enable the company to accelerate its international expansion, particularly in Europe and the United States, and strengthen its position as an innovative leader and pioneer in automation solutions for aircraft maintenance.

Founded in 2015 in Toulouse, Donecle offers a patented aviation inspection solution combining autonomous drones, high-resolution imaging, and advanced artificial intelligence to support aircraft maintenance. This comprehensive system automates inspections that are still largely performed manually, completing this process up to 10x faster and delivering significant gains in cost savings, reliability, efficiency, speed of execution and safety for technicians. It also strengthens the reliability and traceability of maintenance operations. Donecle primarily serves the commercial aviation sector, as well as business and military aviation.

Beyond the automation of inspections, Donecle is developing a software layer designed to convert collected data into directly actionable insights. Over time, this data is intended to be integrated into MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) systems, enhancing traceability and long-term monitoring. This approach also enables the automation of certain maintenance decisions, positioning Donecle as a future predictive maintenance management platform.

The company has grown to operate more than 40 drones in 15 countries worldwide (from 30 at the start of 2025) and has developed the only solution on the market certified by both Airbus and Boeing and by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), enabling it to serve global commercial fleets. Its solution has already been adopted by numerous airlines and military air forces, including United, LATAM, DHL, Viva, Lufthansa French Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

This latest funding round will support Donecle's continued international growth, particularly among commercial customers, to capture more of the estimated \$500m aircraft maintenance market. Donecle intends to accelerate its growth in Europe and the United States, including through strategic partnerships and targeted acquisitions. The company currently has a team of 35 employees in France and plans to hire about ten additional staff members in the coming months. The company also aims to continue investing in artificial intelligence to further advance its technologies and expand its offering.

Matthieu Claybrough, co-founder and CEO of Donecle, said: *“This new round of funding will give us the resources to scale up internationally and further confirm our market leading position by developing our technology and use of artificial intelligence. The new investors, led by IRDI Capital Investissement and SWEN Capital Partners, have deep understanding of our market position and will provide tailored support alongside capital to help us in our next phase of growth.”*

Benjamin Lillo, Investment Director at IRDI Capital Investissement added: *“We are convinced that the digitalization of maintenance operations has become essential in a context where skilled labor is becoming increasingly scarce. Donecle provides a concrete solution by combining the digitalization of inspections with structured data management. This investment fully aligns with our regional fund strategy, which aims to support innovative companies with strong local roots, while fostering their transition toward a scalable, value-creating software model”.*

Jason Bigeard, Investment Director in SWEN Capital Partners' VC Tech for Good strategy, said: *“Donecle is at a pivotal moment in its development, with a patented, proven technology which is poised for rapid international expansion. This investment is fully aligned with our investment thesis, which aims to support innovative, high-impact companies. Donecle’s unique, fully automated drone and AI inspection technology contributes to the decarbonization of air transport maintenance operations, driving efficiencies, cost savings and reliability.”*

Donecle’s solution is also contributing to the decarbonization of aviation, replacing diesel-powered aerial work platforms with a digitized solution. The efficiencies compared to manual inspections also reduces aircraft downtime, reducing the need for hangar space and spare aircraft. Donecle estimates that its drone fleet has already saved several thousand tonnes of CO₂eq.

About Donecle

Donecle is reshaping aircraft inspection with its fully automated drone solution, powered by advanced image analysis and supported by a cloud-based digital history. Its drones inspect aircraft exteriors of all sizes, from business jets to widebodies. This solution speeds up inspections, simplifies reporting, and improves record keeping. Donecle's drones are listed in both Airbus and Boeing aircraft maintenance manuals and are used worldwide by airlines and MROs. www.donecle.com

About IRDI Capital Investissement

With nearly €550 million in assets under management, spread across 14 funds including two evergreen funds, IRDI Capital Investissement partners with close to 200 companies across a wide range of sectors. For more than 40 years, [IRDI Capital Investissement](http://www.irdi.fr) has been the leading asset management company in the greater South-West of France. Based in Toulouse, Montpellier, and Bordeaux, the firm provides equity financing to regional companies at every stage of their development (seed, venture capital, growth / buyout, and turnaround).

About SWEN Capital Partners

A leading player in responsible investment in Private Equity, Infrastructure and Mezzanine Debt, SWEN Capital Partners managers, advises on, or oversees €16 billion in assets* and brings together a team of over 120 dedicated professionals.

The management company is owned by Ofi Investment, a brand of Aema Groupe (Macid, Abeille Assurances holding, AESEIO Mutuelle), as well as by approximately fifth employees grouper within the holding company SWEN Managers.

Since its inception, SWEN CP has made sustainable finance the driving force behind its growth, offering its clients responsible, innovative and forward-looking investment solutions.

Having become a Mission-Driven Company in February 2024, the firm has a clear ambition: to put investment at the service of Nature through sincere commitments, concrete actions, and the mobilization of all its teams and its ecosystem. www.swen-cp.fr/en/

* Total amount of commitments as of January 1, 2026. The amounts include collective management, third-party management (management mandates), regulated services (investment advice and RTO), and unregulated services (portfolio supervision).

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