



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, January 17, 2019

Free signs a partnership agreement with Covage covering some 1.4 million fiber sockets on public initiative networks (PINs)

On January 17, 2019 Free signed a partnership agreement with Covage that will enable Free to propose its fiber offering on France's public initiative networks (PINs) in the regions covered by Covage, including Calvados, Hérault, Haute-Savoie, Seine et Marne and la Somme, as well as on the networks launched by the conurbations of Dunkirk, Sénart, Paris-Saclay, Métropole Européenne de Lille and Essonne Numérique. Altogether, these networks will represent some 1.4 million fiber sockets by 2023.

Free's fiber offering will gradually become available in these areas over the coming months.

Commenting on this partnership, Thomas Reynaud, Iliad's Chief Executive Officer, said *"Through this agreement with Covage, Free has cemented its position as France's leading alternative fiber operator (FTTH) and confirmed the acceleration of its rollouts across the entire country"*.

Pascal Rialland, Chairman of Covage, stated: *"We are very proud to host Free on our FTTH networks. The arrival of a new national operator will allow people to access a broader range of services on all of the private initiative networks that we cover. This agreement fits with our overall strategy of being a neutral fiber infrastructure operator open to all service operators in order to diversify the offerings available and fully meet users' needs"*.

About Free

Free – an Iliad Group subsidiary – is the inventor of the Freebox, the first multiservice box on ADSL. Free is behind numerous innovations in the Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband access segment. Since January 2012, Free has brought mobile phone usage within everyone's reach with straightforward offerings at very attractive prices. Free has 20 million subscribers (6.5 million Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband subscribers and 13.5 million mobile subscribers at September 30, 2018). On May 29, 2018, the Iliad Group launched its mobile business in Italy under the Iliad brand, becoming the country's fourth mobile network operator, and had over 2.23 million subscribers at September 30, 2018.

Press contact

Isabelle Audap - Tel: +33 (0)1 73 50 27 22 - presse@iliad.fr

free



About Covage

Covage is an ultra-fast broadband infrastructure operator. It has held a leading position since 2006 in the rollout and operation of fiber networks in partnership with local authorities and service operators. Covage currently operates 45 networks (both public and private) that serve individuals, companies and government agencies and are interconnected via Covage's national transmission network. To date, Covage's network covers 2 million fiber sockets, of which 500,000 are in operation, and its ultimate goal is to deploy 3 million. Over 200 French and international electronic communications operators rely on Covage's networks to provide services to their own clients.

Covage's business development is supported by powerful shareholders: Cube Infrastructure Fund (a fund dedicated to infrastructure and specialized in services to local authorities) and Partners Group (a global private markets investment manager).

www.covage.com

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Press contacts

Rivély Monampassi / Philippe Torregrossa / Laurent Hess - Burson Cohn & Wolfe

Tel.: +33 (0)1 56 03 12 13 / 41 20 / 12 71 - Team.Covage@bcw-global.com