

## **Press release**

### ***For immediate release***

## **DRC BETS ON QUEBEC TECHNOLOGY AND GOLD-BACKED DIGITAL CURRENCY**

**Montreal, October 21, 2025** — Montreal-based **MAGNI Ops**, a subsidiary of Phoenix Capital BV, announces the strategic acquisition of four (4) high-precision multisensory LIDAR modules developed by **BALKO Technologies**, a Quebec flagship in optical technology.

### **A BOLD INVESTMENT IN GOLD-BACKED DIGITAL CURRENCY**

What distinguishes this transaction, valued at more than **\$3 million CAD**, is its payment method: the **Sovereign Gold Reserve Token (SGRT)**, a gold-backed sovereign digital currency equivalent to 1 gram of pure gold.

This operation reinforces the positioning of the SGRT as an impact currency. It is part of a series of strategic initiatives, including the entry last month of Phoenix Capital BV into the capital of Vertiko Mobilités — a Quebec pioneer in vertiports for eVTOLs (electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft) — aimed at sustainably reconnecting Quebec's regions to urban centres. According to **Yannick Richard**, Executive VP of Vertiko, the use of SGRT has allowed the company to increase its value, demonstrating the relevance of this currency in a context of sustainable development.

*"The SGRT transaction with Phoenix Capital was a strategic choice. Realized at an equivalent value of US\$100 per gram of gold, while the SGRT now stands at US\$135.28, our stake has gained more than 35% in value, and it's not going to stop anytime soon with gold prices going through the roof. This gain directly strengthens Vertiko's overall valuation. The SGRT thus demonstrates its effectiveness as an agile financial tool, backed by tangible value and perfectly aligned with the imperatives of sustainable development".*  
— Yannick Richard

### **QUEBEC SENSORS FOR STRATEGIC MISSIONS IN AFRICA**

The acquisition of BALKO's LIDAR sensors will allow MAGNI Ops to strengthen its capabilities in **applied aerospace drone sector**, particularly for **carbon stock measurement** and **mineral exploration** missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These activities are part of the **MACC (Community Carbon Africa Market)** and **GOLDCONNECT (ethical gold) programs**, two pillars of the **AXIS National Program**, operationalized by Phoenix Capital BV, which aims to promote sustainable and inclusive development.

### **A FRANCO-QUEBEC ALLIANCE AT THE SERVICE OF INNOVATION**

Founded in Montreal in 2025, MAGNI Ops is the result of **MAGNI Drones**, a French company created by **Aurélien and Manon Garçonnet**, former military personnel with more than 20 years of experience. By combining **cutting-edge technology, aeronautical safety and the enhancement of geographical data**, MAGNI Ops is positioning itself as a key player in the ecological and technological transition.

**BALKO Technologies**, for its part, continues to establish itself as a leader in the development of LIDAR solutions and geospatial data processing software, contributing to the modernization of measurement tools in the fields of environment and spatial planning.

## **Contacts**

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