



## French Tech start-ups shake up the algorithmic video surveillance market

Original title (FR): "Les start-up de la French Tech bousculent le marché de la vidéosurveillance algorithmique"  
Outlet: Les Echos  
Author: Adrien Lelièvre  
Publication date: May 14, 2025  
Original link: <https://www.lesechos.fr/start-up/ecommerce/les-start-up-de-la-french-tech-bousculent-le-marche-de-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-2165053>

Disclaimer: This English version is a translation provided for convenience. In the event of any discrepancy, the original French article remains the authoritative version.

## French Tech start-ups shake up the algorithmic video surveillance market

Led by one of PayFit's co-founders, the young French company Orasio has just raised €16 million in seed funding. It aims to work with defence players, businesses, and local authorities.

Eight years after graduating from École Polytechnique—an engineering school where students hold officer status—Florian Fournier is (partly) reconnecting with the military world. The former Head of Product at PayFit has launched Orasio, an algorithmic video-surveillance startup that has just raised €16 million.

As we revealed in March, the fund Frst is among its investors, alongside Germany's Global Founders Capital (GFC) and Poland's Expeditions Fund. This is one of the largest seed rounds in French Tech in 2025.

Orasio ticks a lot of "on-trend" boxes: the startup is led by a unicorn co-founder—a profile investors love—uses artificial intelligence, and arrives at a time when security and sovereignty issues are at the heart of political and economic debates.

"Our ambition is to become the European leader in video intelligence by offering a solution that can compete—technologically and commercially—with the best solutions worldwide," says Florian Fournier. At this stage, those leading solutions are Chinese, American, or Israeli.

### Defence first

In practice, Orasio makes it possible to analyse complex situations in video streams, in real time or after the fact. "We do this for three types of players: defence and internal security actors, local authorities, and private companies," explains Florian Fournier, who founded the company with Arnaud Delaunay (ex-FarmWise) and Fabio Gennari, a former maître des requêtes at the Conseil d'État.

The solution integrates with surveillance cameras or servers (either directly on the customer's infrastructure or in the cloud) and sends alerts when an issue is detected. It also helps review hours of footage faster. The first product, available this summer, will be delivered to the military. "There is no connection whatsoever to weapons systems," Florian Fournier specifies. Within French Tech, the AI startup Alta Ares, for example, analyses video filmed by drones on the battlefield.

In recent years, French cities have massively equipped public spaces with video-protection systems. The goal: prevent terrorist acts or threats to the safety of people and property.

In terms of volume, however, far more cameras are installed in buildings, offices, warehouses, and retail stores. A boon for AI startups: Veesion works with Intermarché, Intersport, and FNAC; XXII provides its solution to Avia, La Poste, and CMA CGM.

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### A mixed trial during the Olympic Games

Ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympics, the French state experimented with real-time algorithmic surveillance. French startups Wintics and Videtics—recently acquired by Swiss group Technis—and Chapsvision won contracts, alongside Orange Business Services.

A public committee assessed the experiment, which ended in March 2025. It pointed to "uneven technical performance" depending on operators, use cases, and contexts of use. The report noted, for instance, a significant number of "false positives" for abandoned objects. But it also found that algorithmic video surveillance was effective at detecting intrusions of individuals or vehicles into restricted areas. "If you don't test, how do you expect to improve products?" comments one industry player.

"We're lucky to be arriving at a time when, technologically, there's been a huge amount of innovation over the past two years. We can build our solution directly on top of highly performant multimodal models," Florian Fournier says.

### A regulatory framework to comply with

For certain uses—such as real-time detection—the entrepreneur will not have free rein. In April, France's Constitutional Council struck down the extension of algorithmic video surveillance until 2027 that the government had sought. At this stage, the technology divides the political class. France Unbowed (LFI) and the Greens, as well as associations such as La Quadrature du Net, warn about risks to digital freedoms.

By contrast, this type of AI-based solution appeals to the right and far right. The Minister of Justice, Gérald Darmanin, recently said he supports facial recognition—a technology widely deployed in China and the Gulf, but never tested in France so far.

"Technically, it's feasible for us to do it. But in the EU, very few countries have chosen to use it. We respect and adapt to their choices," Florian Fournier comments. In all cases, French Tech players must comply with two European regulations: the GDPR and the AI Act—otherwise they expose themselves to penalties.