

Focus Smart Infrastructure - First private Venture Capital Fund in the new federal states of Germany has been launched

Leipzig, 8th of July 2019 – The first private Venture Capital Fund in the new federal states of Germany has been launched. „Smart Infrastructure Ventures“ is investing throughout Germany especially in teams focussing on SmartCity, energy & eHealth. The new fund will have a volume in the double-digit millions and is still open for new investors/limited partners.

Supported by SpinLab - The HHL Accelerator and a strong network

„Smart Infrastructure Ventures“ has a strong network of partners: SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator based in Leipzig, has won multiple prizes and successfully supported more than 50 startups since 2014. „Based on our own organically grown networks, we are able to achieve a high-quality deal-flow which leads to attractive investment opportunities – also outside of SpinLab“, illustrates Dr. Eric Weber, founder of SpinLab, which is as well part of the Digital Hub Initiative of the federal German government where SpinLab coordinates the „Smart Infrastructure Hub“. In addition, the frequently award-winning business school HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management, which has a focus on entrepreneurship and whose students founded 4 unicorns, belongs to the closer network of the fund. Therefore, Prof. Dr. Stephan Stubner, Dean of HHL and co-founder of trivago, agreed to join „Smart Infrastructure Ventures“ advisory board.

Successful entrepreneurs and business angels invested in the fund as its decision-makers

These unique conditions convinced internationally experienced investors too: Weber initiated „Smart Infrastructure Ventures“ together with the ex-Londoners Björn Bauermeister, previously investment banker at BNP Paribas and Dirk Frohnert, formerly portfolio manager at JPMorgan. Those two General partners have been successful business angels and among other startups invested in the unicorn Revolut.

Bauermeister and Frohnert will be supported by a powerful team with great experience, which is invested in the fund as well. Among them are for example founders/investors of: AdytonSystems, brands4friends, con|energy, E-world, Intershop, ipoque, lieferheld/delivery hero, Pixaco, smow, spreadshirt etc. Frohnert outlines: „The startups we will invest in will highly benefit from this unique combination of successful serial entrepreneurs and investors, as well as our external network of experts.“

VNG AG and SAB as anchor investors

Among „Smart Infrastructure Ventures“ investors are energy & real estate companies, banks as well as businessmen/entrepreneurs & business angels. Anchor investors are the energy group VNG, which is headquartered in Leipzig, as well as the Sächsische Aufbaubank (SAB). „It is our goal to take the opportunities surrounding Smart Infrastructure, as well as to use our special access to interesting startups in the new German federal states“, emphasizes Bauermeister.



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