



+++ Corporate News +++

for immediate publication

German Startups Group Is the Second Most Active FinTech Investor in Germany

- Barkow Consulting publishes data on the German FinTech landscape
- German Startups Group ranks among the most active FinTech investors in the ranking, even ahead of Rocket Internet and High-Tech Gründerfonds
- German Startups Group participates in subsequent financing rounds of its portfolio companies TVSMILES and Rmerge

Berlin, September 7, 2015: German Startups Group, the Berlin-based investment company that focuses on young, fast-growing companies, is the second most active investor in Germany's financial technologies segment. The "FinTech Money Map" published by the consulting firm Barkow Consulting reaches this conclusion. Based on the number of investments, German Startups Group ranks even higher than Rocket Internet and High-Tech Gründerfonds. The term FinTech refers to startups who revolutionize financial services through digital technologies and challenge the companies that provide them, in particular established banks and insurance companies.

German Startups Group holds shares in ten companies in the FinTech segment, five of which are already of particular significance to German Startups Group. These include -

- **CRX Markets**, a bank-independent online platform for funding supplier claims that offers its holders an alternative solution to factoring. The founders of CRX Markets previously co-founded the foreign exchange trading platform 360T, which was recently acquired by Deutsche Börse for EUR 725 million.
- **Friendsurance**, a company that has developed a new peer-to-peer insurance model that rewards freedom from damages with contribution refunds. Here, the insured are joined together with the same type of insurance online to form small groups. Of the contributions paid, part flows into a repayment pot. If no damage is claimed, everyone receives back part of the contribution repayment. In August, Friendsurance won the UN World Summit Award Germany, which honors the best digital innovations from Germany.
- **Scalable Capital**, a company that offers access to inexpensive, professional, software-based asset management by using modern risk management technology. Four of the five founders were previously employed by Goldman Sachs, the fifth founder is a renowned expert, even internationally, in the field of financial econometrics and risk research, Professor Dr. Stefan Mittnik.



Christoph Gerlinger, CEO and founder of German Startups Group, commented as follows: “FinTech startups play a very special role ever since PayPal revolutionized Internet payments. FinTech innovations are generally highly scalable because they usually involve no physicality, in other words no merchandise procurement, production, storage, transportation, returns, and so on, and are applicable across national borders. They increasingly originate from Germany, which is why we have consciously decided to actively pursue this attractive segment as an investor.”

Furthermore, German Startups Group recently participated in two follow-up financing rounds of its portfolio companies: among other projects, German Startups Group participated together with Point Nine Capital in the Series A financing of over 3 million US dollars in the Berlin-based Adtech startup Rmerge. Rmerge offers app developers the ability to do target audience-specific advertising on smartphone apps via retargeting.

Furthermore, German Startups Group participated in a financing round of the Berlin-based startup TVSMILES with a volume of 5 million Euros together with the US investor e.ventures as well as Omnes Capital, Ventech, and SevenOneMedia. Following the successful launch of the TVSMILES app in England and a leap in sales, the newly accumulated capital is to be used for further internationalization, especially in the USA, as well as for the further development of the software. Since its launch in September 2013, the app has been downloaded over 3 million times and attracted more than 600,000 active users per month in Germany and the UK alone according to TVSMILES. Shortly after its commercial launch on August 1, 2015, TVSMILES has already reached the number one spot in the UK in the Apple App Store and the Google Play store in the category Entertainment and Quiz App. German Startups Group has held shares in TVSMILES since the angel round and has participated in several additional financing rounds.

For more information on German Startups Group, its business model, portfolio, and management, please visit <http://www.german-startups.com>.

Press materials can be found at <http://www.german-startups.com/index.php/presse>.

Press contact:
German Startups Group Berlin GmbH & Co. KGaA
Theo Bonick
Phone: +49 30 6098890 84
Mail: presse@german-startups.com



About German Startups Group Berlin GmbH & Co. KGaA

German Startups Group is an investment company based in Berlin that focuses on young, fast-growing companies, so-called startups. The company acquires majority and minority shareholdings mainly by providing venture capital. The portfolio companies that German Startups Group holds also stand to benefit from German Startups Group's expertise, experience and network with respect to strategy development, financing rounds, restructuring necessities, M&A transactions or selling the company, including a possible IPO. According to its own assessment, German Startups Group provides startups with so-called "smart money" by acquiring a shareholding. Its focus is on companies whose products or business models represent a disruptive innovation, allow for a high degree of scalability to be expected, and in which it has a great deal of trust in the entrepreneurial abilities of the founders to whom it feels that it obtains early access to due to its close relationships to relevant players in the German startup scene. The geographical focus is on the German-speaking region. Since it commenced with operations in 2012, German Startups Group has in its opinion built up a diversified portfolio of investments in young companies and become the second most active venture capital investor in Germany since 2012 (CB Insights, Germany Venture Capital Overview). 25 of the 42 stake holdings in operationally active companies are of particular significance to German Startups Group and together comprise 95% of the total value of all 42 active stake holdings. According to German Startups Group, its investment portfolio reflects a cross-section of extremely promising German startups of various maturity stages ("Seed," "Early" and "Growth Stage," by German Startups Group's own definition) and includes some of the most successful and best-known German startups.

More information is available on our website under www.german-startups.com