



Next Big Thing AG (NBT) Secures Five Million Euros To Jump-Start Pre-IPO Funding

Berlin, November 17, 2020 – [Next Big Thing AG \(NBT\)](#), the Berlin-based venture studio for the Machine Economy, has successfully completed the first round of its pre-IPO funding and raised a total equity amount of five million euros. The lead investor is a Munich-based family office and two pre-existing investors FinLab EOS VC Fund and GPS Ventures were also involved in closing the first round of financing. NBT is supported by Bankhaus Lampe from Bielefeld in sourcing and securing this investment amount. The complete funding round is expected to close with the addition of further investors in the coming weeks.

As a venture studio and early-stage investor, NBT provides a full range of services for the development of companies in the Machine Economy sector. The venture studio combines technological understanding and innovative leadership to create a more prosperous and sustainable society. NBT focuses on the Internet of Things (IoT) combined with machine learning, AI, and blockchain technology to develop business models of the future – data-based B2B companies. As we enter a new era of technological innovation, business models of the future will be characterized by significantly less human involvement. In the Machine Economy, interconnected machines will lease themselves out, hire maintenance technicians, or pay for spare parts. Not only will individual production steps be networked in this way, but rather the entire product life cycle.

IPO as an Accelerator for Future Growth

"In the Machine Economy, completely new services and business models are emerging that are expected to release trillions of euros in total business value. German companies now need a long-term roadmap underpinned by an innovation-driven economic and investment strategy in order to help shape a front-runner position in this field. This is what we support with our approach to building the Machine Economy of Europe right from the heart of Germany, but we also place a large focus on contributing to the digital sovereignty of the country," explains NBT founder and CEO Harald Zapp.

"We are in special times and we are all the more pleased to have gained new partners in addition to our existing investors for this decisive phase of our company. We can now pursue our vision with full force and take the next steps towards an IPO. We would be thrilled to win further investors for the pre-IPO round in the coming weeks", says Maik Käbisch, co-founder and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of NBT.

With Bankhaus Lampe, the venture studio is also supported by an experienced partner in the process of finding additional investors. The institution combines its long-standing tradition of a private bank anchored in the SME sector with state-of-the-art processes, which supports NBT's vision of investment in innovation and the forthcoming Machine Economy.

About Next Big Thing AG

Founded in 2016 with its roots in Berlin, Germany, Next Big Thing AG (NBT) is a venture studio for the Machine Economy that co-founds deep-tech ventures with aspiring founders and corporates to deliver real-world impact. With its diverse portfolio of IoT, AI, and DLT projects, NBT provides long-term support for B2B companies, including the full scope of development toolkits, innovation strategies, mentorship to entrepreneurs and startups, engineering know-how, and smart financing – all to empower a more prosperous, sustainable, and democratized world.

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