

Vienna, Monday, December 11th 2017

## Network beats Crowd:

### Danube Angels finalize first investments

*The new financing network Danube Angels from Vienna has successfully completed its first two investments. Octago j.s.a., a Slovak start-up, will continue its growth in Austria and Europe. The Austrian company Sledgehammer Wintersport GmbH secured financing on time for the winter business in order to expand its worldwide business activities.*

#### Danube Angels GmbH

Danube Angels GmbH was founded in 2017 by four partners, who already own successful companies, to make use of the new legal possibilities of crowd financing (“crowd-investing”) in Austria. The partners are Dr. Werner Festa (Interfides Wirtschaftsprüfungs – und Steuerberatungs GmbH), Mag. Peter Helesic, MBA (Helecom k.s.), Mag. Jakob Hütthaler-Brandauer (Rechtsanwaltskanzlei Hütthaler-Brandauer) and Paul G. Putz, MBA (Paul Putz & Partner Management Consultants GmbH).

Danube Angels GmbH has set itself the goal of bundling the expertise of the respective fields of the partners and thus creating significant added value for investors and target companies. Instead of the often unmanaged crowd, there is a network of well-informed investors – network beats crowd.

Danube Angels GmbH selects and analyses investment opportunities in start-ups and growth companies in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the CEE-region. This is exactly where Danube Angels GmbH takes a different approach than the existing crowdfunding platforms: Instead of usually offered subordinated loans, where interest and on maturity, the loans are repaid, the investors get involved in the capital-seeking company as a shareholder. The participations in the companies are managed in trust by Interfides Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und SteuerberatungsgmbH, thus a trust agreement between Interfides Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und SteuerberatungsgmbH and the investors are arranged for. For the capital-seeking companies, this structure creates a considerable advantage: instead of many shareholders with small holdings, there is only one shareholder with a higher stake. After a positive outcome of the analysis, the investment project will be presented to the network investors of Danube Angels, whereby the Danube Angels partner themselves always act as co-investors to express their commitment and belief in the target companies.

The managing director of Danube Angels GmbH Paul G. Putz comments: *„In our view, only equity is a suitable form of financing for young companies with ambitious growth plans. As part of our transaction model, investors can invest with manageable amounts in business models that are otherwise unavailable on comparable terms.“*

## First projects successfully financed

After several months of intensive preparation, Danube Angels GmbH is now able to announce the first successfully executed private placements. For the first of its structured and developed growth financings, Danube Angels GmbH was able to raise € 104,250 for the company Octago j.s.a and € 86,400 for the company Sledgehammer Wintersport GmbH through the network of investors via a trust solution. These amounts correspond to participations of 13.34% in Octago j.s.a. and 33.51% in Sledgehammer Wintersport GmbH.



Octago j.s.a. ([www.octago.sk](http://www.octago.sk)) is a start-up from Bratislava, which has attracted attention with new solutions in the trendy growth market of outdoor fitness equipment (calisthenics). Octago has already realized several projects in Slovakia, Croatia and Austria. The funds that the company raised from the investment will enable further expansion in Austria as well as market entry in additional European countries.

The Austrian Sledgehammer Wintersport GmbH ([www.sledgehammer.at](http://www.sledgehammer.at)) started operations in 2013 and focuses on the design, construction and distribution of skibikes and skibobs. The Skibike is a combination of a mountain bike and ski and is therefore an alternative to classic alpine sports for groups of non-skiers and younger generations with high affinity for cycling. The funds from the investment will be used to expand global market leadership and build up inventory.



Do you have questions about our investment opportunities? The most important answers can be found at <http://www.danubeangels.com/en/faq/>.

## Questions/contact/webpage

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