

Pension fund Nest to systematically invest in Swiss startups

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Nest has established a partnership with the venture capital platform investiere.ch and is the first Swiss pension fund that will systematically invest in startups. With this move Nest wants to tap into the innovation and research strength of the Swiss economy, in addition to promoting entrepreneurial activities in Switzerland.

Nest is the first Swiss pension fund that will invest in promising startups. In order to pursue this goal, Nest is relying on the expertise and experience of investiere.ch, the leading Swiss startup investment platform. With more than 50 financing rounds, investiere.ch is one of the leading startup investors in Switzerland. investiere.ch has one of the most experienced venture capital teams and consists of the largest network of business angels and industry experts in Switzerland. Following a professional assessment by the investiere.ch team, these business angels play a key role in the recently established partnership with Nest: their investment in a startup is a condition for Nest's co-investment. Peter Beriger, Nest's managing director, states: "We are well aware of the fact that investments in startups entail certain risks. For this reason we are proud to have found a competent and reliable partner in investiere.ch. We appreciate the team's careful selection of the startups and exceptionally constructive support of the portfolio companies. We are impressed by investiere.ch's competence and the breadth of the team's know-how which is now at our disposal."

Thanks to this partnership, a new and previously untapped source of funding is now also available for startups in later development stages with capital needs of more than CHF 3 million. Currently such companies face great difficulty in finding capital.

In many countries there are public initiatives to promote venture capital investments. In Switzerland, the call for state intervention to promote venture capital investments—be it directly by the state or through an investment obligation for pension funds—is almost as old as the Swiss pension system itself. So far, such initiatives have failed politically. Nest has decided to invest in technology startups of its own accord. Felix Pfeiler, the president of the Nest foundation explains: "Nest expects these investments to become a solid pillar of our private equity investments in addition to strengthening innovation and the attractiveness of the Swiss economy."

"In the US, successful pension funds invest about 5% of their assets under management in venture capital," states investiere.ch CEO Steffen Wagner. "It's time for Swiss pension funds to get involved with startups. Nest is leading the way."

About Nest

With offices in Zurich and Geneva Nest is a collective foundation with above average growth that enables businesses to secure the operational pensions of their employees. Nest currently covers 3'000 companies with 20'000 employees and has assets of 2.3 billion Swiss Francs under management. Already at the time of its foundation more than 30 years ago, Nest defined its commitment to sustainability and cemented ecological and ethical principles in its investment criteria with the goal of making investments in various categories as sustainable as possible. Nest's consistent above-average results prove that ethical/ecological investing and profitability do not exclude each other.

About investiere.ch

investiere.ch is one of Europe's leading online start-up investment platforms. The investiere.ch community itself, which consists of over 10,000 members, identifies the most promising start-ups. These are then carefully reviewed and selected by industry experts and the investiere team. investiere.ch thus offers accredited private and institutional investors direct and professional access to start-up investments and is opening up the asset class venture capital to a wider audience. To date, investiere.ch has successfully closed over 50 financing rounds and has built a diversified portfolio across different sectors that mirrors the Swiss innovation landscape. investiere.ch was founded in 2010 and has offices in Baar, Zurich and Geneva. Together with its minority shareholder Zürcher Kantonalbank, investiere.ch is one of the leading startup investors in Switzerland and is one of the most internationally renowned Swiss fintech companies.

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