

## Press Release

### NEW EARLYBIRD FUND UNI-X BACKS EARLIEST INNOVATIONS

- Earlybird UNI-X Fund of EUR 75 million to help more European pre-seed and very early-seed innovations succeed
- Includes direct cooperation with 45 leading professors from top European universities such as RWTH Aachen University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Imperial College London for dedicated support of university spin-offs
- Fund enables deep tech innovation including Robotics, AI and Mobility

**Munich, October 11, 2021** – 75 percent of deep tech innovations from European universities fail on their way to becoming a startup. Earlybird's new UNI-X Fund of EUR 75 million aims to change this by helping promising, cutting-edge ideas in Europe succeed commercially. The fund targets attractive pre-seed and early-seed investments and especially spin-offs from tech academia. The Earlybird UNI-X Fund will financially support and accompany super early startups to enable the build-up of entrepreneurial teams, development of their business plans, and preparation of a "proof of concept." Across leading European universities such as RWTH Aachen University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Imperial College London, the fund connects a close network of 45 professors called "UNI-Xperts," who have annual contact to about 50,000 students.

Hendrik Brandis, Co-Founder and Partner at Earlybird: "Basic and cutting-edge research at Europe's universities remains absolutely world-class. Thousands of groundbreaking ideas are generated here every year yet we are still underexploiting this potential. Far too many technologies get stuck on their way out of universities. Especially in light of accelerating innovations in the deep tech sector, we urgently need to commercialize more of these ideas and technologies. To tackle this challenge, we have now launched Earlybird UNI-X with a dedicated team that complements the Earlybird family of funds structure."

Every year, between 45,000 and 60,000 new technologies and innovations are developed at Europe's top universities in a wide range of deep tech and high tech fields. Only half of these innovations find their way into a startup company, and then only half of these startup companies then seek financing. This means that as of today, 75 percent of the innovation potential is lost.

Enter UNI-X. The team brings a wealth of knowledge: Foundational Earlybird UNI-X Partners are Frédéric du Bois-Reymond, Michael Hoeck, Stephan Rauscher and Johannes Triebs. They are joined by two experienced and high-profile seed investors, Philipp Semmer and Michael Schmitt, as well as Professor Achim Kampker from RWTH Aachen University, a renowned scientist adding experience in spin-offs to the UNI-X team as a Venture Partner. Natalia Ahmadian is the newest member to support the investment team.

"In recent years at many European universities, there have been very successful spin-offs. Far too often, however, our scientists lack the financial means, or the experience in how to build successful tech companies. In addition to technological excellence, one needs an ideal team and access to customers for pilot projects. Earlybird has precisely these resources paired with the respective know-how. That's why I am very pleased that we can now better leverage this potential together with Earlybird," says Achim Kampker, Venture Partner at UNI-X, Professor and Chair of Production Engineering of E-Mobility Components (PEM) at RWTH Aachen University.

Philipp Semmer, Earlybird UNI-X Partner: "The broad range of academic and investing expertise in the Earlybird team and our partner network allows us to help the European university spin-off ecosystem gain the momentum it needs."

Frédéric du Bois-Reymond, Earlybird UNI-X Partner, adds: "Following university spin-offs and emerging technologies for years, we have regularly encountered a lack of the right mindset to commercialize these

## Press Release

ideas. Meanwhile, such startups are created either in the USA or in China. We must change this if we don't want to lose further ground. In order to be as close as possible to the creation of these ideas early on, we built up a broad network of partners from science and research. With our new Earlybird UNI-X Fund, we can now scale this concept across Europe and help even more university spin-offs succeed."

### About Earlybird

Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused on European technology companies. Founded in 1997, Earlybird invests in all growth and development phases of a company. Earlybird offers its portfolio companies financial resources, strategic support, as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird manages different funds focusing on digital technologies in Eastern and Western Europe, healthcare technologies and university spin-offs. With over EUR 1.5 billion under management, eight IPOs and 30 trade sales, Earlybird is one of Europe's most established and active venture capital firms.

For further information: [www.earlybird.com](http://www.earlybird.com), Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EarlybirdVC](https://www.twitter.com/EarlybirdVC), LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/earlybird-venture-capital](https://www.linkedin.com/company/earlybird-venture-capital) oder Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EarlybirdVC](https://www.facebook.com/EarlybirdVC).

### Press contact Earlybird

Elisheva Marcus  
+49 30 46 72 47020  
[press@earlybird.com](mailto:press@earlybird.com)