

## Press Release

# EARLYBIRD VENTURE CAPITAL EXPANDS TO THE UK, OPENING A LONDON OFFICE

- Earlybird Digital West recently launched in France and now opens in London
- The aim is to partner with UK entrepreneurs, from pre-product market fit to scaling – offering expertise in enterprise software, fintech & deeptech
- London office signals local presence as collaborators in tech startup ecosystem
- Active investments and first hires in Fundraising & Investors Relations underway

**London, November 24, 2022** – [Earlybird Venture Capital](#), active since 1997 and operating as a family of independent funds focused on technology, healthcare and European investments, has announced that the Earlybird Digital West team, covering Western European early-stage tech investments, is expanding into the UK. The team has opened an office in central London that will serve as a springboard to connect with and support entrepreneurs, founders, and a growing number of existing portfolio companies across the UK ecosystem. For companies aiming to become pan-European and category-defining, Earlybird helps navigate expansion challenges including hiring, regulation, and localization.

The UK startup scene has been growing rapidly over the past decade. While this attracted new venture entrants, Earlybird's entry marks the presence of a fund from a VC with a 25-year investment history and expertise across enterprise software, fintech and deeptech. Earlybird's impact on the European tech scene can be felt via portfolio companies such as Aiven, N26, smava, Isar Aerospace, Marvel Fusion, alongside game-changing newcomers in FinTech (Upvest and Payable), among others.

Inspired by promising tech startups in the UK ecosystem, Earlybird has built up an experienced team to tap into and support, great talent and entrepreneurial creativity. To lead activities in London, the team leverages a comprehensive mix of investment and investor relations know-how – essential for supporting world-class entrepreneurs and founding teams.

Key team members in London include Vincenzo Narciso, Akash Bajwe, Elle Muller and Anya Maine. As a Partner and Head Investor Relations for Earlybird Digital West, [Vincenzo Narciso](#) brings deep industry experience as a Limited Partner and as an Investor Relations professional at blue chip alternative firms including The Carlyle Group. The IR team is complemented by [Elle Muller](#) who brings a client-focused approach in distribution and marketing from the UK, Asian, and Australian markets and [Anya Maine](#), who brings several years of experience from the placement agent world and is responsible for the team's project management function. The investment team is actively led by [Akash Bajwa](#), who played a key role in sourcing a recent investment in London-based [Payable](#).

Earlybird Co-Founder & Partner Dr. Christian Nagel shares: "Our playbook is getting perfected: we have built up a French presence with the opening of our Paris office in April. This has already borne fruit. In October, we announced a [milestone investment](#) in food tech startup, Gourmey. We also aim to contribute to the strong development of the UK's tech ecosystem."

Partner Vincenzo Narciso adds: "With over 10 UK-based companies currently across the broader portfolio, we have been deepening our presence in the UK and investing in its ever-growing tech ecosystem. Establishing a presence in London marks yet another important step in our evolution."

Earlybird's value proposition means unrivaled access to the European continent in terms of hiring and customer introductions, helping companies go from zero to one, becoming a true partner to the entrepreneur, and the resulting founder NPS. Earlybird brings a large operator and executive network to the table, helping companies find needle-moving advisors or hires to get to the next level. With funds across Europe making autonomous decisions plus boots-on-the-ground networks, Earlybird can serve founding teams in an agile way.

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Through the newly established presence in London, UK founders can now tap into an international network of global investors and partners to scale their operations faster while leveraging Earlybird's long-standing experience of European venture investing. The goal: contribute to the UK ecosystem, complementing pan-European support for innovation underway.

Consistent with other locations, the core focus remains on early-stage companies – predominantly Seed & Series A and selective growth Series – supporting entrepreneurs with initial investments from less than € 1m to more than € 10m. A Growth Fund supports early to growth investments – accompanying a company's life cycle. As Earlybird portfolio companies grow and experience success, respective founders have often become angel investors in new startups, building up the European flywheel of entrepreneurship.

### 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 and supports its portfolio companies with financial resources, strategic support, as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird invests out of a family of focused and independently-managed funds: Digital West (Western Europe), Digital East (Emerging Europe), Healthcare, UNI-X (University spinoffs), and Growth Opportunity. With EUR 2 billion under management across all fund streams, 8 IPOs, and 30 trade sales, Earlybird is one of Europe's most established and active venture capital firms.

Discover more about Earlybird and the [portfolio](#) on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

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