

## **Pioneers Ventures: Pioneers, Speedinvest and startup300 restructure cooperation**

*Following Pioneers takeover by startup300 AG, Pioneers Ventures is reorganized*

Vienna/Linz, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – Pre-seed Venture Capital Fund Pioneers Ventures, founded in 2015 by Pioneers and Speedinvest, has a new structure. Following startup300 AG's recent acquisition of JFDI GmbH, the company behind the Pioneers brand, a reorganization became necessary. As of today, more than thirty of Pioneers Ventures' existing investments in Business Tech, Consumer Tech, Financial Tech, and Health Tech startups are to be taken over by Speedinvest and integrated into the fund's portfolio. The current Pioneers Ventures management team, comprised of Philipp Stangl and Markus Lang, also moves to Speedinvest and will lead the newly-created pre-seed unit. Pioneers Ventures itself will continue to be operated by Pioneers and its new investment team, which will be further strengthened by a startup300 group of experts. As before, it will invest in pre-seed startups, whilst also taking on the existing tech investment portfolio of startup300.

### **Speedinvest takes over and integrates existing team and portfolio**

“To us, Pioneers Ventures is a real success story! The 32 portfolio companies currently employ around 500 persons, have already gained a total of over €20 million in follow-on funding, and many are regarded as technological leaders in their field. For these reasons, it was a logical step to work more closely with the team in the future,” remarks Michael Schuster, Managing Partner at Speedinvest, with regards to the integration.

### **Pioneers Ventures starts afresh under the startup300 umbrella**

Pioneers and startup300 will seamlessly continue the work of Pioneers Ventures as a pre-seed investment vehicle, investing as normal. “Pioneers Ventures is a further professionalization of our investment activities. Soon we will further strengthen the team – probably under the leadership of a prominent name in the business angel scene. Pioneers Ventures portfolio companies will not only continue to enjoy all the benefits that the Pioneers community has to offer, but will also enjoy the advantages of being a member of the startup300 family. Moreover, we're considering establishing a new Venture Capital fund under Pioneers Ventures to significantly increase our investment performance” says Michael Eisler, chairman of startup300 AG.

-Continued-



“We’re excited to offer to our Pioneers Ventures portfolio companies an even wider scale of added-value support going forward. Besides the direct financial investment and follow-on funding opportunities, the extensive corporate and public sector partner network and events of Pioneers, business scaling consultancy and guaranteed publicity, our portfolio companies will also benefit from access to startup300’s coworking areas,” added Oliver Csendes, CEO of Pioneers.

### **A strong ecosystem: The common goal of Pioneers, startup300 and Speedinvest**

In the future, the three organisations seek to cooperate closely to keep strengthening the Austrian startup ecosystem. “What unites Pioneers, startup300, and Speedinvest is the drive to support outstanding founders from all across Europe with know-how, financial resources and a valuable network. In doing so, they aim to increase the economic and societal impact of young entrepreneurs,” all parties agree.

- Ends -



## Note to the Editors

### About startup300

Startup300 ([www.startup300.at](http://www.startup300.at)) is a company that is built on a community of passionate entrepreneurs, investors, startups and visionaries. It offers network, knowhow, capital and spaces to build new business models in the digital transformation or to change existing ones.

startup300 was founded in 2015 by Michael Eisler, Bernhard Lehner and 86 Business Angels. In the meantime, startup300 has gathered 142 business angels and entrepreneurs, including the most active and successful ones in Austria. startup300 currently holds around 40 startup and strategic investments. Since May 2018 JFDI GmbH, the company behind Pioneers, part of startup300. The company runs factory300, a startup campus in the Tabakfabrik in Linz (Upper Austria), and think300, a company that is supporting corporates to strengthen their abilities to keep up with digital transformation. startup300 holds an investment in the venture capital fund capital300. startup300 is Austrian Startup Ecosystem Partner of Talent Garden, whose first campus in Austria will open in Vienna by the end of 2018.

### About Pioneers

Pioneers is the ultimate One-Stop Hub for global tech innovators to access high-value, curated and qualified data of early-stage and Series A European startups. It establishes and facilitates direct, meaningful business relationships between startups, corporate executives, and investors. Established in 2009 in Vienna, Pioneers helps redefine industries by creating various platforms to help develop future technologies and introduce cutting-edge solutions. Its services include digital services, consultancy, ventures services, events and inspirational, tailor-made offline experiences. Pioneers Discover, its consultancy services arm, which was founded in 2013, shapes the future of corporates and the public sector by introducing entrepreneurial tools, methods, and innovation driven corporate culture. Its investment arm Pioneers Ventures, which was founded in 2015, advances the growth of early-stage startups.

### About Speedinvest

Speedinvest is a Pan-European venture capital fund with €200M under management that invests in seed stage technology startups in FinTech, core technologies and marketplaces & e-commerce. Besides providing financial investments, the fund actively deploys its network and know-how to support its portfolio companies. Speedinvest's office in Silicon Valley supports portfolio companies entering the US market. Find out more: [www.speedinvest.com](http://www.speedinvest.com).

### Queries:

**Bernhard Lehner** | [bernhard.lehner@startup300.at](mailto:bernhard.lehner@startup300.at) | +43 664 439 86 09

**Bernadett Nagy** | [bernadett.nagy@pioneers.com](mailto:bernadett.nagy@pioneers.com) | +43 660 692 4959

**Nina Wöss** | [nina.woess@speedinvest.com](mailto:nina.woess@speedinvest.com) | +43 660 772 54 45

