

### High-Tech Gründerfonds

Leading German Seed Investor



Ecosummit, Berlin

March 24, 2011
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- What we do
- Results and lessons learned
- 5 biggest Successes and 5 biggest Mistakes
- Cleantech Companies in our Portfolio

#### High-Tech Gründerfonds: Key facts

• Founded: 2005

Volume: 272,0 Mio. EUR

Investors:











DAIMLER





Planned duration: 6 years investment plus 7 years disinvestment period

Focus: Innovative high-tech companies in the seed phase (start of

operations < 12 months)

• Investment type: Up to 2 mio. € per company, thereof 500 k€ in the seed round

Value add: Operational support through local coaches

Hands-on and strategic support by investment managers

#### Value add

#### Coaches

- Acquisition phase:
  - Contact to HTGF
  - Support in business planning and presentation
  - SWOT review and initiation of appropriate actions (e.g. team completion, IP strategy)
- Mentoring & management phase:
  - Support during operative starting phase
     (e.g. establishment of controlling, reporting recruiting, early business development)
  - Detection/monitoring of critical issues
- Side investment

#### High-Tech Gründerfonds

- Support in acquiring follow-on investments
- Support in management recruiting
- Strategic focus
- Cost controlling
- Portfolio as growing know-how source
- Networks (e.g. industry contacts, VCs, coaches, legal & accounting firms)

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#### 5+ years High-Tech Gründerfonds: Key results

- 230 Investments
- 212 follow-on financing rounds with a contribution through third parties totalling 301 mio. €, thereof:
  - ~72% private capital (64% VC, 17% BA, 19% Corp.Inv.)
- 12 exits (thereof 8 profitable); 4+ more exits under negotiation
- 28 failed companies
- > 85 management additions/replacements within portfolio companies
- Sustainable stimulation of the German seed- and VC-market
- Multiple partnerships
- >90 "paper millionaires"
- Highly motivated team



status: 14.1.2011

#### Key learnings

- 1. Wrong start is hard to correct
- 2. No portfolio company passed the 1 mil. revenue mark in the year following the investment (except for three)
- 3. Seed gap can be bridged successfully
- 4. Managment is the main reason for failure
- 5. So far it was twice as likely to fail with an investment offer on the table than with no investment offer at all
- 6. Main bottleneck next to financing is Value Add

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### **Biggest Successes**

- 1. Raising 19 mil. Euros for Heliatek in 2009
- 2. Raising 300 mil. for our portfolio
- 3. Selling 175.000€ investment for 1,4 mil.
- 4. Filling the seed gap with 230 investments
- 5. Building a great team, working hard and having fun

#### **Biggest Mistakes**

- 1. Yelling
- 2. Financing a mobile messaging company that uses a blackberry
- Getting emotionally attached to a company
- 4. Getting carried away by a success
- 5. Incompatible investors / shareholders

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#### Some cleantech portfolio companies

- Heliatek: Organic photovoltaic
- Next Kraftwerke: Flexible regulation of energy generators
- Entelios: Flexible regulation of energy demand
- Cuculus: Smart metering / home automation operating system
- Enexion: Management solution for energy procurement
- Ecointense: SaaS-Plattform for work and environmental regulations
- ZIM Plant Technology: Exact measurement of watering needs of plants
- WeSustain: SaaS-Platform for sustainability
- Subitec: CO2 reduction through algae production



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#### ... Looking forward to work with you



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