

Financing round for Factory Berlin: The RAG-Stiftung invests in the community of innovators

- Factory Berlin and RAG-Stiftung cooperate to promote the development of disruptive ideas
- With the investment Factory Berlin intends to expand the community and attract new startups and companies
- RAG-Stiftung and Factory Berlin further intensify the exchange between long-standing entrepreneurial experience and New Economy

Berlin, 12 November 2018 – [Factory Berlin](#), Europe's largest community of innovators, announces its first institutional financing round today. The Essen-based RAG-Stiftung is investing in the Berlin-based company. Together the RAG-Stiftung and Factory Berlin are starting their long-term strategic cooperation and combining the stability and strength of an institutional investor with a creative and agile company.

With the help of this investment Factory Berlin plans to further expand its leading position as the largest community of innovators in Europe and to attract more startups, companies and solo entrepreneurs. Future plans include further developing Factory Berlin's digital talent platform and strengthening member experience and satisfaction. The cooperation between the RAG-Stiftung and Factory Berlin brings together the long-standing entrepreneurial experience and the New Economy. Both aim at supporting innovators who work on the latest progressive technologies and sustainably transform conventional business models.

Factory Berlin is the largest European community of innovators for startups, artists and creative people as well as entrepreneurs and companies. At their two locations they offer their members and partners a cooperative environment that is geared towards inspiration and exchange. The entrepreneurial community spaces in Berlin Mitte and Görlitzer Park form a state-of-the-art hotspot for multicultural cooperation, high-quality, interdisciplinary business encounters, networking and mentoring. Visionaries, startups, companies and opinion leaders from various fields of technology, science, business, politics and art have the opportunity to get in touch with each other via a well thought-through, curated membership program.

The RAG-Stiftung was established in 2007 as part of the decision to end state subsidies for coal mining in NRW and Saarland in the medium term. On the one hand, it ensures that the RAG Corporation can discontinue subsidized coal mining in a socially acceptable manner by the end of 2018 and finances the inherited liabilities with unlimited duration, i.e. water management measures, of the German RAG coal mining industry. The Foundation receives a considerable amount of the funds required for this through investment income and capital gains. On the other hand, it is sending out positive signals in the mining regions of the Ruhr, Saar and Ibbenbüren with numerous funding projects in the fields of education, science and

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culture. By participating in Factory Berlin, the RAG-Stiftung hopes to gain important insights into working in the digital age for existing projects as well as a good return on investment.

Udo Schloemer, Founder, Chief Visionary Officer and Managing Director of Factory Berlin, explains: "The founding of Factory Berlin in 2011 was inspired by the artist Andy Warhol with the aim to combine art and digitization. Therefore, we at Factory Berlin don't only focus on tech startups, but also on art and design. We are very proud of the internationally relevant community platform that we have created in recent years. We are now delighted to have successfully completed the first institutional financing round with the RAG-Stiftung and to be able to begin the next growth phase of Factory Berlin. The RAG-Stiftung brings not only a network, but also a long-term investment focus, which we would not have had with normal VC financing. With the investment we will link long-standing entrepreneurial experience and New economy even more strongly and continue to a greater extent what we have already started very successfully in the Factory Berlin with the companies, startups and solo entrepreneurs."

Dr. Helmut Linssen, CFO of the RAG-Stiftung, says: "As a long-term investor, the RAG-Stiftung is a reliable partner for investments. We are delighted to be able to expand our portfolio by acquiring a stake in Factory Berlin. In addition to a good return on the investment, we expect valuable insights from the partnership, which can also be transferred to the Foundation's existing investments - in the area of digitization, but also with a view to the changing use of community spaces. Together with Factory Berlin, we are tackling important issues that will allow future trends to be identified in order to be able to react optimally to them".

More information about the Factory on www.factoryberlin.com.

About Factory Berlin

Factory Berlin is an international community of innovators and changemakers who support and empower each other to create, share, and disrupt. Inspired by the diversity and exchange at Andy Warhol's Factory in New York, Factory Berlin brings together the brightest minds from tech, politics, arts, and science into one dynamic and collaborative ecosystem. The members' extraordinary drive for innovation impels them to become the creators and opinion leaders of tomorrow. Founded in 2011 by Managing Director and Chief Visionary Officer Udo Schloemer, Factory Berlin operates Europe's largest innovation community in Berlin-Mitte and Görlitzer Park. On a total area of over 23,000 square metres, Factory Berlin brings together globally active technology companies with start-ups and creative thought leaders. These include Google for Startups, Entrepreneur First, CODE, Siemens, SoundCloud, Hackerbay and NewSchool as well as countless young talents. Members get support with partnerships and education and have access to the community and event spaces at Factory. More information via www.factoryberlin.com.

About RAG-Stiftung

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The RAG-Stiftung is a private foundation that was established in 2007. The mission of the RAG-Stiftung is to accumulate sufficient assets by the end of 2018 to enable the permanent financing starting in 2019 of the inherited liabilities with unlimited duration related to German coal mining operations in the Ruhr and Saar region. For more details on the RAG-Stiftung, please visit www.rag-stiftung.de.