

Venture Capital GmbH

Roland Nunheim has been with BASF for 25 years with assignments in Corporate Finance, Strategy and Audit in Germany and abroad. He completed his Master's in economics at the University of Heidelberg.

Roland is an experienced investment professional who was heading the Asset Management team managing BASF's Pension Funds globally. Major milestones during this time were introducing alternative asset classes such as Private Equity and Hedge Fund Programs for BASF Pension Funds. In his most recent assignment as Head of Financing Subsidiaries and Joint Ventures he was responsible for arranging a CNY 40 billion syndicated bank loan facility for BASF's Verbund site in Zhanjiang, China.

“It is a real honor for me to take over from Markus such a highly professional team located across the globe. I very much look forward to working with all our partners in the future and strive for joint value creation.”

Roland Nunheim
Managing Director of BASF Venture Capital GmbH



Grão Direto is the largest agricultural platform in Latin America designed to digitize the agricultural commodity chain and guide farmers and buyers to market in an efficient way. The company's platform assists in negotiation and closing of both spot and future markets as well as barter trades. It improves market intelligence analysis for growers and buyers, enabling farmers and grain buyers to make informed decisions regarding market rates and choice of grains.

The company boasts the world's most downloaded digital grain trading app, with over 300,000 downloads and approximately 8,000 grain delivery/pick-up points featuring real-time pricing. In addition, more than 20 million prices are calculated daily by the platform's proprietary artificial intelligence. In the last 12 months, the startup has already reached 5 million tons of digitally connected grain, serving different audiences.

The investment was executed by a secondary transaction on June 2023 and BASF Agricultural Solutions signed a commercial partnership in order to promote the digitalization of the Brazilian agricultural market.



Bota Biosciences (Bota Bio) is a global industrial biotechnology company connecting biological design to scale-up manufacturing to accelerate shifts to sustainable living. Bota has built an integrative bioengineering platform, to develop and implement efficient, eco-friendly, and cost-effective biomanufacturing technologies.



Bota Bio's founder Dr. Cui in Davos 2024 annual meeting

Committed to its mission, Bota Bio established its proprietary automation platform "Bota Freeway" seamlessly integrates software and advanced equipment to improve R&D efficiency and throughput. Bota Freeway encompasses the entire product development process,

starting from DNA design and extending to strain construction, lab-scale fermentation, and pilot-scale process development.

This platform can construct and screen over 1.2 million strains annually, and 10,000 enzyme variants per day using microplates. Its high precision fermentation platform equipped with 48 parallel bioreactors, enabled over 3000 tank runs per year.

Furthermore, Bota established its own pilot plant facility, featuring 2x1000L and 4x500L fermentation capacity with full process development capability. This integrated and state-of-the-art bioengineering infrastructure facilitates the rapid scale-up of strains and processes, ensuring reliable technology transfer from laboratory settings to manufacturing facilities.

This infrastructure strengthens support for customers and partners across industries, focused in the areas of food, nutrition and personal care.

The investment was executed on December 2020, and after the investment, Bota Bio and BASF has achieved several cooperation in personal care area and PU degradation.



Bellatrix Aerospace successfully completed space qualification for two of its satellite propulsion technologies – green propulsion and electric propulsion.

The company's green propulsion system (Arka) includes a proprietary non-toxic and environmentally friendly propellant, paving the way for sustainable satellite exploration.

The electric propulsion system (Rudra) offers high fuel efficiency and potent thrust in an innovative compact design, enabling highly precise satellite maneuvering. Both systems were tested onboard ISRO's PSLV C-58 launch vehicle and operated in space as per design specifications.

They are now available for commercial supply.





Phomera Metamaterials, based in Zhuhai, China, is a world-leading technology company specializing in photonic crystal metamaterial engineering and microsphere manufacturing. Phomera has established mass production capability to manufacture microsphere-based, environmentally friendly photonic crystal film and powder products.

Photonic crystal is an artificially synthesized advanced material produced by arranging PS, PMMA, or silica microspheres in a periodic structure. With multiple layers of microspheres constructing a pre-designed 3D structure, it can modulate electromagnetic waves, resulting in various functionalities. The materials have multiple applications in the photovoltaic, automobile, packaging, consumer electronics, and fashion industries.

The investment was executed in March 2023, and after the investment, Phomera and BASF have achieved several cooperations in automobile coating and structural color-based TPU.



Photonic Polymer Opal (PPO) film applied in backpack

Ecorobotix, headquartered in Switzerland, is a Certified B Corporation® dedicated to revolutionizing the agricultural sector.

Established in 2011, the company is committed to significantly reducing the use of crop protection products and preserving soil integrity through its cutting-edge ultra-high precision sprayer and AI software solution. Since its inception, Ecorobotix has been pivotal in diminishing the carbon footprint associated with traditional agriculture, contributing to the realization of a more sustainable future.

Ecorobotix ARA: High Precision Boom



BASF Venture Capital joined AQTON PE and others in a Series B investment round for Ecorobotix. With this investment, Ecorobotix completed its Series B transaction of CHF 46 million (about USD 52 million) in total, empowering the company to expand its market reach, establish a US subsidiary, enlarge its team, and enhance its products and services.



BigRep is dedicated to deliver a holistic solution approach delivering its customers reliable, German engineered 3D printers, intelligent software for ease of use and productivity, high-quality materials, as well as customized services. The trust of the industry in BigRep's products is reflected by more than 800 own large format AM systems installed across a broad range of customers from various industries, in particular automotive, aerospace, and manufacturing. Today BigRep counts blue-chip companies such as Ford, Deutsche Bahn, Canyon, and Airbus, and hidden champions like Zoeller or Magirus, but also educational institutions, research institutes, and innovative start-ups among its customers.

In December 2023, BigRep has entered into a Business Combination Agreement ("BCA") with SMG Technology Acceleration SE ("SMG", ISIN: LU2699152265, Frankfurt Stock Exchange: 7GG), a European accelerator supporting the long-term development and growth of medium-sized enterprises.

Upon closing of the BCA, the listed entity is expected to be named BigRep SE ("Combined Company") and to close concurrently its acquisition of Austrian-based HAGE3D GmbH to accelerate growth of the Combined Company on a global level.



DePoly is a Switzerland-based company developing a groundbreaking chemical process aimed at breaking down various types of plastics, such as PET plastic, polyester fibers, polyurethane, and similar materials, into their original raw components. Notably, this energy-efficient process operates at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, utilizing readily available chemicals. DePoly is unique in its ability to handle mixed, blended, or laminated materials, including cotton polyester blends and outdoor sporting goods that would otherwise end up in incineration, landfills, or the environment.

In 2023, BASF Venture Capital and Wingman Ventures co-led DePoly's

Founded in Vancouver, Canada in 2020, pH7 Technologies is a pioneer in clean and sustainable critical metals extraction and processing with its proprietary, closed-loop, organic-electro chemistry process that operates at low temperatures. This solution results in zero environmental impact in the extraction and processing of key minerals such as Platinum Group Metals, copper, tin, nickel, etc. These critical inputs are needed for the massive global energy transition while mitigating environmental concerns.



PTA and MEG from DePoly's PET chemical recycling process oversubscribed seed round, alongside many others.

pH7's successful 2023 Series A financing round was oversubscribed, raising \$16 million USD from notable investors such as TDK Ventures, Pangaea Ventures, BASF Venture Capital, FM Capital, Collaborative Fund, and Rhapsody Ventures Partners.

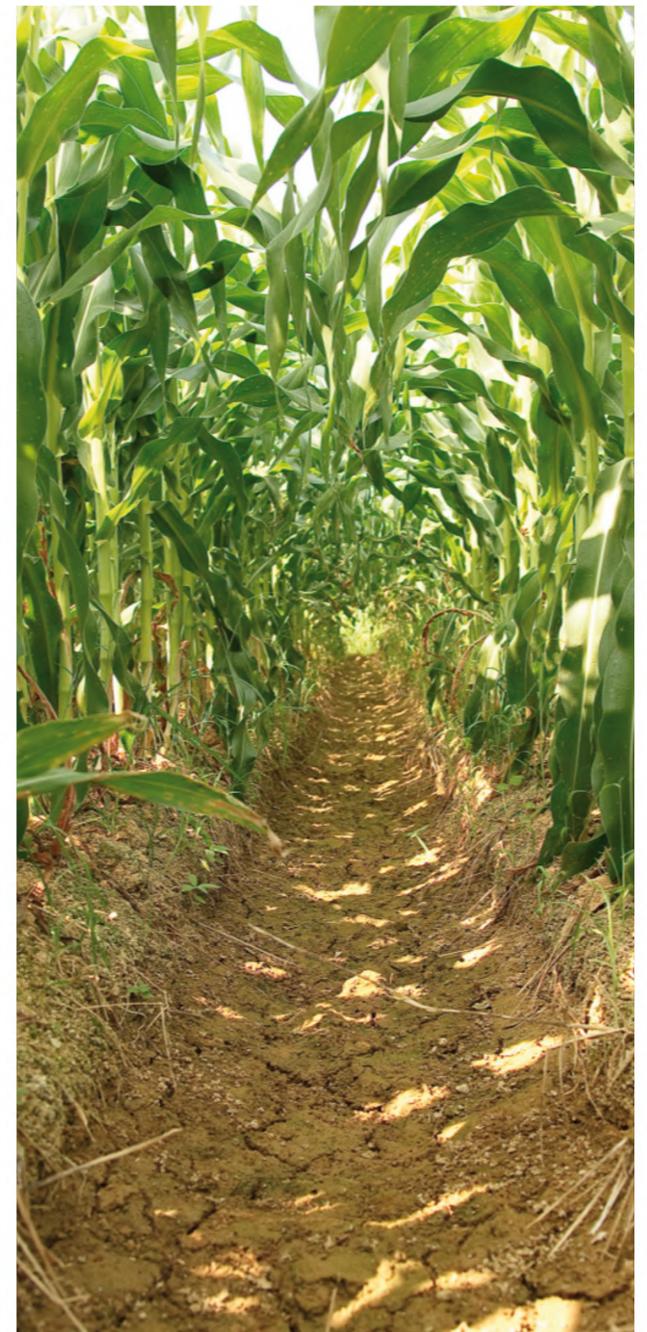


Poised for growth and expansion, pH7 currently operates a pilot plant and is constructing its first commercial facility due to open in first half of 2024.

FortePhest was established in 2017 to create herbicides with a new mechanism of action (MOA). The company's cutting-edge crop protection platform aims to control herbicide-resistant weeds. In 2023, after a further investment round, the company achieved a critical milestone and successfully patented a new generation of novel, eco-friendly, and potent herbicides.



BASF Venture Capital invested in FortePhest's Series B round in early 2022 alongside Orbia Ventures, Sherpa InnoVentures, SIBF II, and other investors, and also participated in the 2023 funding round.



FortePhest is collaborating with global crop protection companies to test and commercialize its technology, which could significantly contribute to the world's food security.

BASF is among the corporations paving the way for the Corporate Venture Capital market not only in South America but also on a global level! We are featured in the cover story of Época Negócios this month as one of the main initiatives shaping this scenario.

Karime Hajar, our Senior Investment Manager for South America, spoke to the magazine about how BASF is exploring the universe of startups and the entrepreneurship and venture capital ecosystem on the continent. She shared the history of the area's operations and its positioning on the continent, explaining how investments are made, opportunities identified,

and the results obtained so far.

As pioneers in Corporate Venture Capital (CVC), we aim to identify and drive innovative solutions, as well as foster and finance startups, catalyzing sustainable changes in the chemical industry.

Our success stems from solid governance, combined with a long-term strategy, professional resource management, and a dedicated and specialized team. We support investments in Decarbonization, Circular Economy, Agriculture, New Materials, Digitalization, and New Business Models, all with a focus on positively impacting the environment.

We are proud to be part of this new wave of Corporate Venture Capital and will continue to invest in the best businesses and entrepreneurs globally, always focusing on innovation and positive impact.

