

## Press Release

### **Neosfer celebrates its tenth anniversary**

*Frankfurt am Main, October 9th, 2023* – Neosfer, one of the most active corporate venture capitalists (CVC) in Germany with a focus on digitalisation and sustainability in financial services, is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The wholly owned subsidiary of Commerzbank AG was founded in 2013 as the main incubator. As the first early-stage CVC with a major bank as an anchor investor, the then main incubator primarily targeted FinTech start-ups. In the meantime, neosfer focuses on promoting, developing and investing in sustainable and digital innovations.

In the past ten years, Commerzbank's early-stage investor has celebrated numerous successes. To date, neosfer has invested in 32 start-ups. The portfolio includes the unicorn Grover and start-ups such as Pliant and Circula. In addition, neosfer realised eight exits, such as the sale of Zenhomes to the Scout24 Group in 2021. Matthias Lais, one of the co-founders of the main incubator and current managing director of neosfer alongside Kai Werner, explains: "With neosfer, we are continuously looking for European start-ups that have the power to redefine financial services. Our vision is to drive the sustainable and digital transformation of the financial sector."

neosfer also extends this vision into its projects as an innovation unit. These include Lissi, a decentralised identity network whose prototype was launched in 2020. Lissi is funded by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) as part of the IDUnion network and has already won the Handelsblatt Diamond Star Award. Another highlight project: the IMPACT SOLUTIONS platform, which celebrated its launch last year. Kai Werner says: "The sustainable and digital transformation poses major challenges, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. This is precisely where we are starting with IMPACT SOLUTIONS. The platform brings together SMEs and innovative start-ups with sustainable solutions on one platform and thus provides the necessary foundations to face the transformation."

This is also the goal neosfer is pursuing with the IMPACT FESTIVAL. Launched in 2021, the event connects green tech start-ups, SMEs, sustainability managers and investors and supports knowledge transfer. In terms of exchange and knowledge transfer, neosfer has been relying on the live event Between the Towers (BtT) since 2014. Here, experts from the

fields of VC, tech, fintech and sustainability exchange ideas on a monthly basis in order to shape the future with innovation.

Kai Werner and Matthias Lais conclude: "Within the last ten years the financial sector has changed and developed massively. Digitalisation and sustainability are more in focus than ever. It is precisely this change that we want to continue to drive in the next ten years with a strong team, targeted investments and innovative projects."

## **About neosfer**

neosfer is the early-stage investor and innovation unit of Commerzbank Group. It investigates future technologies that are relevant to business and society, promotes and develops sustainable, digital solutions, and brings them profitably to the bank and its customers. All of this is done through the three areas of invest, build, connect. It creates access to innovation through strategic venture capital (invest), in-house development of technologies and business models (build), and building ecosystems around the sustainable and digital future of society (connect).

With a portfolio of more than 30 digital and sustainable startups, neosfer has always kept its eyes on the future and is continuously developing. Some successful prototypes, such as the Lissi project, the blockchain-based identity network for self-determined identities, have already emerged from this and are being used in the Commerzbank Group. Through its own events, such as the monthly tech startup event series "Between the Towers" and the Impact Festival, the company strengthens its network in the innovation, venture and sustainability sectors.

neosfer GmbH, or neosfer for short, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Commerzbank AG based in Frankfurt am Main.

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