

Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation (Embargo until 7.2 - 09:30am)

A forward-looking Swiss initiative to promote start-ups and innovative SMEs

Vision: The Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation (SwissEF) is a private, not-for-profit and independent foundation based in Bern whose purpose is to promote the growth of Swiss start-ups and innovative SMEs. Switzerland should expand its leading position as an economic and innovation location and create new jobs. The foundation was co-founded by former Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, who is now the honorary president. The SwissEF is under the patronage of the new head of the WBF, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin.

Innovative double approach: In order to achieve its goals, the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation (SwissEF) is pursuing a novel dual approach. First, the foundation implements concrete projects that improve the framework conditions for entrepreneurship and innovative technologies. It also provides expertise and networks through a top-class international advisory board. Secondly, SwissEF has initiated a growth initiative. UBS and Credit Suisse launched the Swiss Entrepreneurs Fund with a target of CHF 500 million. The fund invests risk and growth capital in start-ups and innovative SMEs. Mobiliar is the first investor.

SwissEF UpScaler programme: Companies that are in the growth phase and want to scale their business model on the international markets receive a tailor-made support programme. Individually composed teams of a pool of 50 experienced top entrepreneurs and experts with international experience help the growth companies to scale faster and efficiently drive internationalisation. Thanks to this new method, the next entrepreneurial growth stage with a higher success rate will be achieved.

SwissEF Shaper programme: Start-up entrepreneurs and ecosystem experts are in direct contact with representatives of national politics and make them aware of key issues. The first meetings took place in autumn and winter 2018, including a workshop with Johann N. Schneider-Ammann on taxation and immigration of specialists from third countries.

The Swiss Entrepreneurs Fund: Swiss start-ups and innovative SMEs need capital to achieve growth. Launched by UBS and Credit Suisse, the fund directly invests risk and growth capital in innovative start-ups and growth companies through third-party funds. It is the first time that the big banks have been jointly involved in such an investment vehicle. The first investor, Mobiliar, has invested CHF 100 million. The fund will be added to over the next few months with a target of CHF 500 million. The focus is on institutional investors and wealthy individuals. The fund invests in companies that are already in the market and have a client base. The focus is on investment rounds in the amount of more than CHF 5 million.

Profitable interaction: The Swiss Entrepreneurs Fund is associated with the foundation in a unique way. On the one hand, it supports their goals by financially supporting the foundation. On the other hand, the fund benefits from the foundation's projects. The SwissEF UpScaler programme promotes the quality of start-ups and innovative SMEs and accelerates growth. This increases the value of the company and improves the return of the fund. This distinguishes the Swiss Entrepreneurs Fund significantly from similar investment vehicles.

The founders: The Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation (SwissEF) was founded under the patronage of the former Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann and the initiative of Mobiliar, UBS, Credit Suisse, Swisscom, the Gebert Rüt Foundation and Wenger & Vieli and Member of the Zurich Council of States Ruedi Noser.

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- Swiss Mobiliar Holding AG
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