



Bosch makes 250 million euros available to startups

Venture capital ensures technological progress

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- ▶ Fifth fund set up with 250 million euros
- ▶ Venture-capital subsidiary RBVC to open second office in the United States
- ▶ Stefan Hartung: "Our investments in startups promote technological progress in business and society."
- ▶ Ingo Ramesohl: "Of the 2,000 startups we assess each year, only around a hundred make it to the shortlist."

Stuttgart, Germany – Despite the challenging business environment, the Bosch Group is raising its venture-capital funding for the current business year: its subsidiary Robert Bosch Venture Capital GmbH (RBVC) is setting up a new fund for startups; the fund has a volume of 250 million euros. As a provider of venture capital, Bosch supports startups around the world whose technologies have the potential to improve quality of life and conserve natural resources. "Our investments in startups promote technological progress in business and society," says Dr. Stefan Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH. "And we ourselves also benefit from this collaboration, since solutions to ever more complex tasks can frequently be found faster, more efficiently, and better in partnership with others." As an innovation leader, Bosch is at the forefront of efforts to bring about climate-neutral technology, sustainable mobility, and connectivity, which is why RBVC investments also focus on fields such as energy efficiency and powertrain electrification. Bosch recently announced that it will be [investing billions](#) in climate-neutral technology, including hydrogen technologies and the digital transformation of its business.

Expanding globally: RBVC to open new office in U.S.

RBVC, one of Europe's largest corporate investors, specializes in innovative technology startups. Its [portfolio](#) includes more than 50 companies, mainly active in artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things (IoT), semiconductors, and quantum computing. RBVC invests up to 25 million euros in individual young startups, and also provides them with the know-how and contacts the Bosch Group has as a leading supplier of technology and services. As part of its localization strategy, RBVC is continuously expanding its investment activities worldwide: in China, the subsidiary successfully

established an investment platform with [Boyuan Capital](#) through which other companies can also invest venture capital in funds. Through its own locations and contact persons for the startup scene, RBVC maintains a presence in technology hotspots around the world, such as China, Germany, Israel, and the U.S. Its U.S. office in Sunnyvale is now to be joined by a further office on the Atlantic coast, in Boston. “As a global investor we are part of the startup scene, looking out for the next disruptive innovation that will turn markets on their head,” says Dr. Ingo Ramesohl, managing director at Robert Bosch Venture Capital GmbH. “This second U.S. office will ensure we are even better at keeping our finger on the pulse of technology startups.”

Open Bosch: exploiting technology trends at an early stage

Each year, experts from RBVC examine over 2,000 startups, but only about a hundred of these make it to the shortlist. RBVC also wants to use the new funding round to find technological answers to changed geopolitical and business-policy circumstances. “Two years of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing geopolitical tension have left their mark everywhere, as is shown by the chip shortages and disruptions in global value chains,” Ramesohl says. “That’s why we also want to identify technological trends that can provide relief in such situations.” Each year, RBVC invests in six to ten carefully selected companies. In addition to capital, it also offers know-how and operational support. As Ramesohl points out, RBVC pursues an open culture of innovation with its [Open Bosch](#) program, forging links between startups and Bosch operating units at an early stage. This gives startups the opportunity to become a supplier, customer, or technology partner of Bosch. Bosch, in turn, receives early access to the latest technologies and can incorporate them into its own innovations. Bosch already has several hundred partnerships with startups – in 2021 alone, the number of such activities tripled.

Successful investments ensure technological progress

When an investment comes to an end, RBVC may also choose to help a startup go public. In this respect, it is similar to institutional venture-capital funds. One recent success story was the IPO of Xometry, the operator of an AI-assisted marketplace for on-demand manufacturing. Another success was IonQ, the first-ever quantum computing company to be publicly listed. Since 2021, RBVC’s portfolio has also included Variantyx. This startup uses AI-assisted genetic testing in cancer diagnosis, and also works with the Robert Bosch Hospital in this field. To support the shift to electromobility, RBVC has also invested in the startup BASiC Semiconductor, which manufactures silicon carbide power electronics. Finally, Motive, the startup formerly known as Keep Trucking, operates a fleet management system in the U.S. that reduces trucking costs and fuel consumption.

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Robert Bosch Venture Capital GmbH (RBVC) is the corporate venture capital company of the Bosch Group, a leading global supplier of technology and services. RBVC invests worldwide in innovative start-up companies at all stages of their development. Its investment activities focus on technology companies working in areas of business of current and future relevance for Bosch, above all, automation and electrification, energy efficiency, enabling technologies, and healthcare systems. RBVC also invests in services and business models that are relevant to the above-mentioned areas of business. Furthermore, RBVC enables co-innovation between Bosch and startup through the Open Bosch Program. Additional information is available online at: www.rbvc.com

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 402,600 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2021). The company generated sales of 78.7 billion euros in 2021. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. As a leading IoT provider, Bosch offers innovative solutions for smart homes, Industry 4.0, and connected mobility. Bosch is pursuing a vision of mobility that is sustainable, safe, and exciting. It uses its expertise in sensor technology, software, and services, as well as its own IoT cloud, to offer its customers connected, cross-domain solutions from a single source. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to facilitate connected living with products and solutions that either contain artificial intelligence (AI) or have been developed or manufactured with its help. Bosch improves quality of life worldwide with products and services that are innovative and spark enthusiasm. In short, Bosch creates technology that is "Invented for life." The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 440 subsidiary and regional companies in some 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing, engineering, and sales network covers nearly every country in the world. With its more than 400 locations worldwide, the Bosch Group has been carbon neutral since the first quarter of 2020. The basis for the company's future growth is its innovative strength. At 128 locations across the globe, Bosch employs some 76,100 associates in research and development, of which more than 38,000 are software engineers.

The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861–1942) as "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering." The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant upfront investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-four percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The remaining shares are held by Robert Bosch GmbH and by a corporation owned by the Bosch family. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust.

Additional information is available online at www.bosch.com, www.iot.bosch.com, www.bosch-press.com, [www.twitter.com/BoschPress](https://twitter.com/BoschPress)