

Statement by the Pro Zukunftsfonds Schweiz foundation on the launch of the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation

On 2nd July, an interview with Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann was published in the Sunday edition of the Swiss Neue Zürcher Zeitung newspaper. During this discussion, the Federal Councillor announced his involvement at the forefront of the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation. The organisation is proposing to raise around 500 million Swiss francs which will provide Swiss start-up companies with venture capital.

A delegation of the Pro Zukunftsfonds Schweiz foundation was informed of these plans last Friday by Mr Schneider-Ammann personally. The Pro Zukunftsfonds Schweiz foundation has issued the following statement:

- We welcome the proposition to provide Swiss start-up companies with venture capital and to improve the environment in which these businesses can thrive. We hope that this project will be met with great success.
- We are delighted that the idea of providing more venture capital to Swiss start-ups with promising technologies in growing sectors has been welcomed so readily by Switzerland's Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research.
- In contrast to the proposed funds which are to be sourced privately, the Zukunftsfonds Schweiz is focussing on long-term assets from pension funds. As defined by the parliamentary motion submitted by Graber, this concerns investing a fraction of a percentage of institutional savings, which equate to over 850 billion francs, in innovative start-up companies, thus creating top jobs for the future.
- The Zukunftsfonds Schweiz is conceived as a fund of funds, which ensures venture capital is distributed appropriately and limits the concomitant risk for institutional investors to an acceptable level.
- The Zukunftsfonds Schweiz project is progressing according to plan and we expect it to be ready for launch by the 4th quarter of 2017. However, specific details will only be published once the funds have been authorised by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority.

Max Gurtner
Pro Zukunftsfonds Schweiz foundation
+41 78 888 75 54