

## **AZIMUT STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE GROWTH OF INNOVATIVE COMPANIES AND PARTICIPATES IN LIFTT'S INVESTMENT ROUND**

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Azimut, one of the largest independent operators in asset management in Europe, enters - through its subsidiary Azimut Enterprises - in the capital of LIFTT, Venture Capital Holding chaired by scientist and entrepreneur Stefano Buono, as a strategic partner for long-term development.

LIFTT, born in 2019 as an initiative of the LINKS Foundation of Compagnia di San Paolo and Politecnico di Torino, adopts a new Venture Capital model focused on the sustainable growth of the territory through the transfer of technology from University to Industry and, therefore, from the stage of development "of the idea" to the realization of an innovative product.

In less than 24 months, LIFTT has become one of the most active players in Italy, with about 1500 projects examined and with 23 start-ups and innovative SMEs currently in the portfolio. Its team of analysts presides over the key markets of the economy of the future, spanning all market sectors and with a particular focus on Deep Tech and Technology Transfer. The 2020/2024 business plan foresees the support of more than 100 companies, with a total investment of 450 million euros. After the closure of this last round of 12 million and the entry into the capital of Azimut, LIFTT plans to open in the immediate future a new tranche of 15 million, already largely optioned.

The investment in LIFTT represents for Azimut a further step to support the development of innovative projects and new businesses, in seed and early stage, with a high value of industrial innovation. A commitment that is part of the broader project that the Group is pursuing in support of the real economy.

Azimut, present in 17 countries, manages total assets of over 83 billion euros and has been active for several years in the alternative investment sector, where it now has assets under management of over 4.6 billion euros in private market products, thanks to a complete range of private equity, private credit, venture capital and real assets funds.

**Gabriele Blei**, CEO of Azimut Holding and Chairman of Azimut Enterprises, said: "Azimut is an international company whose main focus is also on supporting innovation and businesses in Italy. Over time, we have been able to build an important network of skills, services and products that can accompany companies on their path to growth, generating positive effects on the territory. Technology isn't just a digital lever for companies. The investment vision of the LIFTT team is anchored on industrial innovation in the broadest sense, starting from its early stages of development. The prospect of supporting projects and teams, including managerial and organizational development, adds value to financial investments, which combines with our various initiatives in the real economy and will allow us to give further support to the many successful and valuable startups and ideas that our country can express".

**Stefano Buono**, Chairman of LIFTT commented: *"It is with great pleasure that we announce the entry of Azimut in the capital of LIFTT and the closure of our latest round of investment, which has seen, in addition to the support of shareholders who were already an active part of our project, also the entry of important private investors and family offices. A confirmation of the validity of our organizational model of "evergreen investment holding company", which responds to a precise need of the investment market, freeing it from the time constraints and rigid impositions traditionally linked to the traditional schemes of Venture Capital. A different way of doing and supporting innovation, which offers investors an organic and at the same time flexible growth path. We therefore welcome with pleasure the entry into our "virtuous network" of an expert and high-profile group such as Azimut, which represents a reason for legitimate pride and an incentive to continue our growth path. The commitment now is to continue to implement our business plan, strong in the presence of an important traveling companion: this partnership opens a new chapter for LIFTT from today."*

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