



## **Big Bang Ventures Closes €31 million (\$ 42 million) Second Fund**

***Lochristi, Belgium – May 10, 2007*** - Belgium-based ICT venture capital fund Big Bang Ventures has held the final closing of its second fund, Big Bang Ventures II, at €31 million. It is also proud to announce the establishment of its Venture Partner program and two new investments.

Big Bang Ventures II follows Big Bang Ventures I, which was a € 10 million fund that closed in December 2000. The fund will focus primarily on investment opportunities in early-stage companies in information, semiconductor and communication technology in and around the Benelux region.

ARKimedes-Fonds, Trustcapital (also lead investor of BBV's debut fund), and a mix of family offices, IT industry captains ("Venture Partners") and BBV management participated in the initial closing.

European Investment Fund (EIF) committed € 5.3 million in the final closing. With commitments in excess of € 3.8 billion invested in 244 venture capital and private equity funds and € 11.1 billion committed in guarantee schemes, EIF is the first fund of VC funds in Europe and a major player in access to finance for European SMEs.

EIF participates in Big Bang Ventures II using European Union funds provided through the European Commission's ETF Start-up Facility. The ETF Start-up Facility targets seed or early stage funds, aiming to finance the development of innovation and research as well as small business incubators operating as funds.

Francis Carpenter, EIF's Chief Executive, said "There are currently very few players in the seed and early stage in the Benelux and EIF wants to play a role in supporting strong, operational management teams such as Big Bang Ventures."

Barend Van den Brande, Managing Partner, said "We are very happy to welcome EIF, an internationally recognized, financial institution to our fund. EIF's investment helps BBV to continue to develop our support to passionate and smart entrepreneurs."

Big Bang Ventures II expects to invest in approximately twelve to fifteen companies, for a total – staged – amount of €2-3M per company. The life-time of the fund will be ten years, with usual extension provisions.

Frank Maene, Managing Partner: "We're proud that our deal flow is going strong. In 2007 we already announced four new deals and one follow-on round. In the last few weeks we closed two more deals. We were the sole investor in CVWarehouse's € 1 million first round. Based in Antwerpen, Belgium, CVWarehouse provides a hosted solution that enables companies to manage the status of job applicants in a cost effective manner. Big Bang Ventures also led the seed round of Paris based Mobiluck, a provider of mobile interactive services, leveraging the convergence of mobile, social communities and location-based services. Mobiluck has over one million downloads to date."



The fund has also expanded and now finalized its Venture Partner program. Van den Brande: "This program allows us to expand the fund's deal flow, its network and provides us with help at start-ups relative to business development and potential M&A opportunities. The venture partners will also serve as board members of selected portfolio companies." *The complete list of venture partners is listed below.*

In a move to expand the day to day operations of the team, Herman DeLatte was promoted from Venture Partner to Partner.

### **About Big Bang Ventures**

Big Bang Ventures is emerging as a leader in seed and early-stage venture capital funding for high-growth ICT companies. In addition to funding, Big Bang Ventures leverages its extensive operational experience and worldwide network to actively help start-ups accelerate their growth.

Formed in 2000, Big Bang Ventures has over € 40 / \$ 54 million under management. Past investments include: DataCenterTechnologies (sold to Symantec (NASDAQ: SYMC)); Dedigate (acquired by Terremark (AMEX:TWW)) and Clear2Pay, a leading payments technology company.

Investments range from € 0.5 to € 3 million and focus on the ICT sectors of: enterprise software, digital media, mobile applications, infrastructure software, and storage.

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### **About EIF**

European Investment Fund's mandate is to promote the creation, growth, and development of small businesses (SMEs), in accordance with the strategy of turning the European Union into a dynamic, knowledge-based economy by 2010, set out by the 2000 Lisbon Agenda. EIF provides portfolio guarantees and acquires VC fund participations benefiting SMEs. EIF acts independently and commercially, seeking an appropriate return for shareholders. EIF is part of the EIB Group. For additional information on EIF: [www.eif.org](http://www.eif.org).



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**About Big Bang Ventures' Venture Partners**

The Venture Partners bring an exceptional track record in high-tech company development and business experience to Big Bang Ventures. To underline their commitment to Big Bang Ventures they have also invested in the fund. They help generate deal-flow; help analyze investments; provide access to their network; help with short term operational challenges; assist in business development and M&A opportunities; and serve as board members with one or more of the high-growth start-up companies.

Name	Summary bio	Speciality: sector -- focus
<b>Michel Akkermans</b>	ex CEO Fics and chairman S1 (NASDAQ SONE). now Chairman and CEO Clear2Pay	Financial software, financial services -- M&A
<b>Marc Devis</b>	ex Sr VP WW Sales & Marketing, Xircom Inc. (now Intel)	Semiconductors, connectivity, Wifi -- WW Sales, Marketing & Operations
<b>Alex Bogaerts</b>	VP Internet Security Systems (NASDAQ: ISSX - now IBM)	Internet, security software -- indirect channels
<b>Kristof De Spiegeleer</b>	ex CEO DCT (now Veritas/Symantec) and Dedigate (now Terremark (AMEX:TWW))	Infrastructure management; IP datacenters; storage, hardware -- R&D
<b>Antony Verbeke</b>	ex CEO Siemens Atea	Telecom, Consumer appliances -- lobbying
<b>Franky Carbonez</b>	founder & chairman Prodata. Director on different boards, ao Zetes	Smart cards, EPOS, EFT, terminals, finance, SI -- strategy and partnerships
<b>Ron Belt</b>	ex-Global Sector Director Tech Research ABN Amro. Founder GO Capital, Bluemind Corp Finance. Venture Partner Truffle Ventures	Tech sector analysis -- Strategy
<b>Hans Sassenburg</b>	CEO/CTO at Software Improvement Group AG, CEO at SE-CURE AG, ex-CEO at Alert Automation Services BV (now Centric TSolve)	Product development, Software Engineering, Embedded Systems -- R&D
<b>Patrick De Smedt</b>	ex Chairman Microsoft Europe, Middle East and Africa. Director on different boards.	Software technology - IT Services - Enterprise partnerships - IDA management
<b>Peter Op de Beeck</b>	Former President ADP Claims Services, founder Turbodata & Online Internet	Processing, BPO, Enterprise Software - General Management, Scaling, Europeanization
<b>Mark Zaleski</b>	ex CEO QXL ricardo plc. Non-Exec Director Mainstream Holdings Inc.	B2C, C2C -- e-commerce, logistics
<b>Philippe Moitroux</b>	ex CEO IT Masters (now BMC)	Enterprise software, online social communities
<b>Koen Bouwers</b>	ex CEO Consul Risk Management (now IBM).	Infrastructure security software -- offshore development
<b>Andrin Bachman</b>	ex-founder Glocalnet (now Telenor) , Partner M/C Ventures	Telecom -- strategy
<b>Robbert Kuppens</b>	Managing Director Cisco Europe - IBSG (Internet Business Solutions Group)	Internet Strategy & Connected Products -- M&A
<b>Jan Heyse</b>	Former executive at Alcatel and Global Crossing, currently Director TrustCapital Technology	Telecommunications, semiconductor -- M&A, strategy