

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Intensifies Collaboration with Technology Startups and Joins Germany's HTGF III Fund

Munich, May 31, 2017 – Munich-based Wacker Chemie AG is intensifying its collaboration with innovative company founders and has joined Germany's HTGF III fund – the third of its kind for high-tech startups. The HTGF is Germany's leading investment fund for technology-driven early-stage financing. It has been supporting recent technology startups since 2005, helping them put their business concept into practice. The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the state-run KfW bank group are the main investors contributing to this third fund. WACKER joins other well-known private-sector companies in helping to finance company founders.

“HTGF is an ideal platform for supporting creative ideas and promoting the exchange of views between startups and established companies,” said Rudolf Staudigl, president & CEO of Wacker Chemie AG, explaining the reason for joining the fund. “After all, it's not enough just to have a good idea: the right project needs to be provided with the right resources at the right time.” He added that WACKER, as a research-driven chemical company, was able to offer startups more than just financial support in putting their ideas into practice. Company founders, he explained, would also benefit from WACKER's many years of expertise gained in the development of new solutions, as well as from its production know-how and extensive knowledge of markets.

From fall 2017, WACKER will be taking part in HTGF III, which aims to provide startups with early-stage funding. Membership is another systematic building block in WACKER's strategy of cooperating with startups and innovative companies. The investment promotes joint developments and intensifies collaboration with promising startup entrepreneurs.

Dr. Michael Brandkamp, managing director of HTGF, explains: "The chemical industry is Germany's third largest industrial sector, and, as such, is open-minded toward the challenges of digital transformation. Large, well-established companies continue to show considerable interest in supporting the founding and expansion of high-tech startups from the chemical industry and related sectors. We are delighted that WACKER has joined HTGF III, as it means we have gained another strong chemical-sector partner."

About HTGF

The High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF) fund is Germany's most active early-stage investor. Generating a volume of some €875 million across three funds, HTGF finances recent innovative technology-driven startups, actively supporting them in putting their business concept into practice. HTGF covers a wide range of topics – from robotics, energy and the Internet of Things, through to the medtech, biotech, chemical and software sectors. The public-private-partnership investors are the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the KfW bank group and leading private-sector companies.

About WACKER

WACKER (www.wacker.com) is a globally-active chemical group headquartered in Munich, Germany. With a wide range of state-of-the-art specialty products, WACKER is a leader in numerous fields and industries. Its products are required in countless high-growth end-user sectors, such as photovoltaics, electronics, pharmaceuticals and household/personal-care products. In 2016, the Group generated sales of some €4.63 billion – WACKER's operations are divided among the following business divisions: WACKER SILICONES, WACKER POLYMERS, WACKER POLYSILICON and WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS. Founded in 1914, the Group currently operates 23 production sites, supplying over 3,200 products to more than 3,500 customers worldwide. WACKER is represented by subsidiaries and sales offices in 31 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

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The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally active chemical company with some 13,450 employees and annual sales of around €4.6 billion (2016, excluding Siltronic). WACKER has a global network of 23 production sites, 19 technical competence centers and 49 sales offices.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber grades and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetates and vinyl acetate copolymers and terpolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions, solid resins and solutions

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS

Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaic industries