

**Sustainable transformation in the energy sector: econnext AG focuses on scale-ups**

- Scale-ups rather than start-ups: scaling market-ready technologies and companies for a sustainable transformation of the energy and technology sectors
- Profitable markets for renewable energy as the basis for a successful energy transition
- econnext AG as Founding Member of Invest.Green - institutionalising and scaling the potential of green investment

**Frankfurt, 23 March 2023** – Sustainability in every sense of the word, ClimateTech and economic success: these terms describe the investment philosophy of econnext AG. The parent company of several ESG-oriented companies for the development of green technologies focuses on so-called scale-ups. They differentiate themselves from start-ups as their products and services have already reached full market maturity and they are ready for market expansion. A decisive factor in the selection of investments by econnext AG is the potential for synergies among of the scale-ups among each other. This holistic approach enables econnext group to think of innovations in a networked way and thus to decisively advance solutions for climate neutrality.

Given the need to reach climate neutrality by 2045 in Germany and by 2050 in the European Union there is no more time to lose in the energy transition. The significant fossil fuel price spikes and supply disruptions put further pressure on markets. With targeted investments in scale-ups, econnext AG is committed to practical solutions to these challenges. Sabrina Schulz, PhD, board member of econnext emphasises: "We now need a consistent shift away from all fossil fuels. This clears the way for existing renewable and green technologies to be successfully deployed. econnext AG has made it its mission to support young ClimateTech companies in establishing themselves on the market."

econnext AG is currently invested in seven scale-ups. As an industrial management holding company, econnext focuses on two essential factors: innovative and scalable technologies as well as a positive effect on climate, environment and society in terms of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The portfolio ranges from companies in the B2B sector, such as Circular Carbon, which specialises in green heat and biochar, or the energy project developer GRIPS, to B2B4C companies such as Autarq, a provider of solar roof tiles.

Since January 2023, econnext AG is also a Founding Member of Invest.Green, a membership-based network of companies, retail investors, their financial advisors and other key players in the emerging green economy. Dr. Matthew Kiernan, Co-founder and Executive Chairman of Invest.Green: "Our corporate goal is to make green investing accessible to all segments of the population and to channel capital into environmentally sound and financially attractive projects. Partnering with pioneering companies like econnext brings us an important step closer to these goals."

In addition to a diversified portfolio with a clear, sustainable and market-ready focus, econnext AG relies not least on synergies between its subsidiaries: The subsidiary Ambibox, for example, already produces solar inverters that are used for Autarq's PV systems, among others. Another subsidiary, LUMENION, can store renewable energy using a special power-to-heat technology and make it available as industrial process heat. The interplay of the various solutions demonstrates the objective of econnext AG: the successful establishment of innovative and scalable technologies with a positive and sustainable effect on climate, environment and society on the market.

*"The transformation of the energy sector goes hand in hand with great investment opportunities in Germany and Europe," says Sabrina Schulz, board member of econnext AG. "Climate neutrality relies on innovation and new business models - and young tech companies and their solutions are already waiting in the wings to make it happen."*

### **About econnext AG**

Founded in 2016, econnext AG brings together under its umbrella innovative technology companies that provide solutions for tackling the climate and energy crisis and for the circular economy. In doing so, the orientation towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is just as important as sustainable business models that have a long-term and scalable positive impact on society, the environment and the climate.

As the parent company, econnext AG holds majority stakes in Autarq GmbH (solar roof tiles), Circular Carbon GmbH (vegetable carbon from renewable residual and waste materials as a CO<sub>2</sub> sink), ESG Screen17 GmbH (sustainability screening of investment portfolios), FLAXTEC GmbH (circular economy technologies for solar modules, among others), GRIPS Energy GmbH (renewable energy supply worldwide) and LUMENION GmbH (24/7 renewable process heating and cooling through energy storage), among others.

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