Helio, the startup pioneering a new approach to cloud computing, raises CHF 4.7m Seed Round

Investment to Accelerate Green Cloud Computing and Market Expansion in 3D Rendering and AI

Zurich, Thursday 5 October 2023, 9am CET: Helio, the startup on a mission to revolutionise cloud computing by addressing its environmental and efficiency pitfalls, today announced a seed funding round of CHF 4.7 million. The equity and debt round was spearheaded by QBIT Capital and attracted a roster of notable sustainability and deep-tech investors, including Uebermorgen Ventures, seed+speed Ventures, Combination VC, Rockstart Energy Fund, ROI Ventures, Swisspreneur, and Cloud Angel Investors.

The influx of capital will bolster Helio's Zurich-based team and accelerate advancements in several critical areas of their platform. These include optimising carbon-aware workload scheduling, increasing the network of green data centres, enriching the cloud spot market with excess capacity, and developing their 3D rendering capabilities for the VFX market. Helio employs a unique real-time algorithm that improves cloud resource allocation by rerouting computing tasks to underused or renewable-energy-powered data centres. This approach tackles the dual challenges of poor efficiency—currently below 20% in the industry—and high environmental impact. As the sector is poised to account for 6% of the world's electricity usage by 2030, Helio's model offers a greener and more cost-effective alternative. The company has set a bold target of reducing CO_2 emissions by 200Mt by 2030.

The debt financing is provided by ZKB and secured by the Swiss Technology Fund instrument, which provides loan guarantees to Swiss companies whose novel products contribute to a sustainable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing the project's alignment with innovative climate protection goals. This funding sets the stage for Helio to accelerate its market penetration, particularly in areas like 3D rendering and AI, as it capitalises on the booming demand for sustainable, efficient, and affordable cloud computing.

Commenting on QBIT Capital's investment in Helio, Luis Huber said: "We see Helio as a game-changer in both sustainability and cloud computing efficiency. Their innovative model addresses pressing industry challenges, making this a strategic and timely investment for us. We're excited to be part of their journey towards reshaping a more sustainable digital future."

CEO and Co-Founder of Helio, Kevin Häfeli, said, "This funding is a watershed moment for Helio, not just in securing financial support, but also in aligning with partners who share our vision for a carbon-aware cloud. As we accelerate our mission to transform the cloud computing industry into a model of efficiency and sustainability, this capital enables us to reduce both cloud spending and emissions for our customers. We are particularly excited to unlock new types of data centres as we
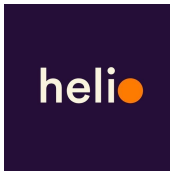
make strides in key areas like 3D rendering and AI. The future of cloud computing is here, and it's more sustainable and efficient than ever."

About Helio

Founded by Kevin Häfeli and Christoph Buchli in 2019, Helio aims to democratise computing, empowering anyone using technology to solve the world's most complex challenges. Through its platform, Helio makes the idling compute capacity of data centres available to computing-intensive applications such as Rendering, Artificial Intelligence, or Research. For more information, please visit Helio's website.

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About the Swiss Technology Fund

The Technology Fund is a political instrument of the Swiss government's climate strategy. The Climate Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN is responsible for its strategic governance.

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