

# TechNano Fund for start-ups in high-tech and nanotechnology

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## **PPM Oost and regional entrepreneurs invests in new fund through Innovation Fund Twente**

**For innovative entrepreneurs with promising startups in the high-tech and nanotechnology a new investment fund of 8 million euros is available. NanoTech Fund is funded by entrepreneurs in Twente and received an investment out of the Innovation Fund Twente of PPM Oost (the East Netherlands Participation Company). Interested startups can contact the NanoTech Fund at The Gallery in Enschede.**

NanoTech Fund focuses on early stage investment in high-tech companies, nano- and microsystems technology, medical technology, the Internet-of-Things (IOT) and robotics companies. Experts expect strong growth in these markets over the coming years, states PPM Oost-director Marius Prins. "For start-up companies in these sectors it is often difficult to find funding. It is therefore important that the NanoTech Fund was founded," says Prins. "We are pleased with the involvement of the large group of investors. These are often self-made entrepreneurs who may optionally support the fund management with their experience and network. The combination of entrepreneurship, knowledge of investment and feel for technology, distinguishes NanoTech Fund from other investment funds. We have much more to offer than just money."

### **Investment Applications**

At NanoTech Fund private parties will fund half of the 8 million euro. The fund management expects to support at least twelve companies in making progress with their innovations. NanoTech Fund foresees that several companies in the region of Twente will apply. That has everything to do with the MESA + Institute at the University of Twente. MESA+ is the largest Institute for Nanotechnology in the Netherlands and has a worldwide recognized reputation. The institute has over five hundred researchers. MESA+ does research at the level of molecules and atoms.

According to Van den Berg investments are not limited to startups only. "We definitely are interested in companies which are beyond the trial phases, who have realized their first revenue, but have problems to really get of the ground."

### **Co-financing**

Van den Berg, former director of PPM Oost and for many years active as an investment expert in the region, expects to extract much more funding thanks to the NanoTech Fund. "For example, through co-financing by investment companies such as PPM Oost, but also through private investors from our network. From experience we know that other parties like to join us, because of the results we have achieved in the past. I expect that the final investment result is 3 to 5 times greater," says Van den Berg. The first investment is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

### **Fund-in-fund investment**

The financing of NanoTech Fund is the second fund-in-fund investment out of the PPM Oost Innovation Fund Twente (IFT). PPM Oost also contributes to the investment capital of Cottonwood Technology Fund, which has already made two investments in the Twente region. Twente Region paid seven million euros in the Innovation Fund Twente. PPM Oost has already invested part of this money directly in the Twente companies Axign, TBD Composites and Solar Freezer. PPM Oost expects to make more investments in the coming period. Prins: "There is a great interest of good companies in the Innovation Fund Twente. We look to include both direct investments as well as fund-to-fund investments. We strive to maximize the impact of innovation and employment in the region."

### **Innovation Fund Twente**

Innovation Fund Twente focuses on funding innovative SMEs from the Twente region. Early stage companies in the sector High Tech Systems & Materials (HTSM) and crossovers between the sectors Agro-Food, Leisure Economy, Construction and Energy are among the target audience. The fund wants to promote SMEs in Twente and increase the competitiveness of the region through the provision of risk capital. The Innovation Fund is financed by Regio Twente Twente. PPM Oost is fund manager.

### **PPM Oost**

East Netherlands Participation Company NV (PPM Oost) invests funds from the central government and the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel in promising companies that contribute to the growth of the economy and employment in the eastern parts of the Netherlands. With a total fund volume of over € 290 million euros PPM Oost has invested in over 200 companies.