

– PRESS RELEASE –
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High-Tech Gründerfonds invests in zweitgeist GmbH

Bonn/Hamburg, 26 January 2007 – The High-Tech Gründerfonds has invested in zweitgeist GmbH to support the development of the company. zweitgeist develops and markets a social software of the same name which makes people visible on web pages and context-related communication possible.

zweitgeist aims to make the use of the Internet more personal and emotional for private users. The software brings together people with similar interests: Modelled on the real world, zweitgeist users can see each other whenever they are in the same room at the same time. In the Internet, the room is the web page. zweitgeist users are visible to one another as avatars. With the new social software users can create their own individual virtual character. The users can either select their virtual figure from an avatar palette or upload their own photo. The avatar palette also includes animated figures. These figures can run, show emotions, wave and clap.

Founder Christine Stumpf sees zweitgeist bringing a new quality to Internet communication: “With zweitgeist, people experience a Web which is alive. They see other people, they are happy that they no longer have to surf alone through the virtual world. They meet new friends, people who have the same hobby, the same interests. zweitgeist makes it possible to communicate quite naturally in the Internet and creates emotions by means of visible body language.”

The service provided by zweitgeist is independent of the web page operators and therefore functions on any web page, whether on Google, eBay or MySpace. The “virtual ego” is visible to other visitors to the same web page; getting to know one another is just a matter of a few mouse clicks. One can chat either openly in the community or privately with other users. zweitgeist is not a spacially enclosed chat application but an innovative form of contact and interaction, all web pages of the www are the playing field. zweitgeist users with similar interests meet one another on the same web pages. The target groups practically generate and define themselves.

The published version of the zweitgeist software can be downloaded and used free of charge. In the future, zweitgeist plans to become profitable with new, extensive functions and services for users and advertisers. On their way there, zweitgeist shall be supported by CatCap as coaching partner and by the High-Tech Gründerfonds as seed investor.

„The team, an innovative technology and, above all, a workable and realistic business model have

convinced us. We see a large national and international potential here and, with that, a very plausible investment in Web 2.0," says Senior Investment Manager Clemens von Bergmann of the High-Tech Gründerfonds when commenting on the investment.

Now that the test phase with guest users has been concluded, all interested parties can download the Beta version of the software free of charge from www.zweitgeist.com. The software was awarded the "Innovation Prize Web 2.0" in the category Digital Life in November last year by the State of Baden-Württemberg.

Company founders are Dr. Heiner Wolf (responsible for development and technology) and Christine Stumpf (marketing and PR). As CEO of zweitgeist GmbH, Jan Andresen has been responsible for sales, business development and investor relations since December 2006. "We are happy that we have succeeded in convincing the High-Tech Gründerfonds of our Web 2.0 software and in winning the fund as investor in zweitgeist. With this financial support, we are now in a position to implement our plans in the best possible way," says Andresen.

With its Web 2.0 service, zweitgeist is not only interesting for private Internet users. zweitgeist sees itself as partner of communities of all sizes. It provides a new user loyalty tool and considerably enlarges the coverage of communities. zweitgeist has therefore drawn up a cooperation programme for communities. New emotional communication functions, extensive branding possibilities, own figure palettes and many new visitors to the community's web page are all part of zweitgeist's partner programme.

About zweitgeist:

zweitgeist GmbH was founded in Karlsruhe in June 2006. zweitgeist provides the product of the same name which was awarded the "Innovation Prize Web 2.0" by the State of Baden-Württemberg in November last year, as a free of charge download. The social software makes people visible on web pages and context-related communication possible across all web pages. zweitgeist is based on the Jabber/XMPP protocol. Founders Dr. Heiner Wolf and Christine Stumpf are supported by experienced Hamburg entrepreneur Jan Andresen, former managing director of elkware. Further information and free of charge download on <http://www.zweitgeist.com>.

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About the High-Tech Gründerfonds:

The High-Tech Gründerfonds invests risk capital in young technology companies which have good prospects and which translate very promising research findings into a profit-making business. With the aid of seed financing of up to 500k EUR, the start-ups are to be put in a position to carry on their R&D project up to the completion of a prototype, proof of concept or until market launch.

The High-Tech Gründerfonds has a fund volume of around 272 million EURO. Investors in the public-private partnerships are the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the KfW bank group and the industrial groups BASF, Bosch, Carl Zeiss, Daimler Chrysler, Deutsche Telekom and Siemens.

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