

Gaia Capital Partners raises close to €100m for its first growth fund, and closes first deal with Welcome to the Jungle

- Founded in 2018, Gaia Capital Partners aims at backing the new generation of responsible entrepreneurs, with a focus on tech-driven and innovative European companies.
- Gaia Capital Partners raises close to €100m with commitments from affiliates of Generali Group, Bpifrance, its partner Sycomore AM, and a large pool of family offices and private investors.
- Gaia Capital Partners invests €10m into Welcome to the Jungle as part of €20m series B round alongside the existing investors and co-investors such as MAIF Avenir.

Paris, October 29th 2019 – Gaia Capital Partners announces that it has completed a closing of almost €100m for its fund Gaia Growth I and made an investment into Welcome to the Jungle, the referent media for work.

A growth fund to back the new generation of tech entrepreneurs

Launched in 2018 by Alice Albizzati and Elina Berrebi, Gaia Capital Partners is a new growth fund which aims to finance innovative and tech-driven scale-ups in Europe. The fund focuses on teams who choose to address major environmental and societal challenges in their scale up strategies.

Gaia Capital Partners invests in European tech-driven companies with high growth, a proven product-market fit and early internationalization. The fund targets companies that are building a sustainable asset through their financial as well as extra financial performance. Its Environmental Social and corporate Governance approach leverages the resources of its partner Sycomore Asset Management, a pioneer in responsible investment in public markets.

Gaia Capital Partners finalized a closing of its first fund, Gaia Growth I, at almost €100m, with over fifty leading institutional and private investors, which include Sycomore Asset Management, affiliates of Generali Group and Bpifrance. Gaia Capital Partners expects to finalize the closing of its fund at over €200m by the summer of 2020.

Gaia Growth I intends to finance 10 to 15 companies in France and other European markets (mainly Germany, Nordics, United Kingdom, Italy and Spain). The companies targeted will have revenues of at least €5m and steady growth. In addition to investing in privately-held businesses, the fund will opportunistically invest in public companies.

Welcome to the Jungle: A first investment that embodies the strategy of Gaia Capital Partners

Gaia Capital Partners makes its first investment by taking a minority stake in Welcome to the Jungle. Lead investor in a €20m series B round, the fund invests €10m, alongside co-investors such as MAIF Avenir and the company's existing investors.

Founded in 2015, Welcome to the Jungle's mission is to rethink the world of work and employment: on the one hand, by helping companies enhance their employer brand and on the other hand, by providing young professionals with inspirational content to help them thrive in their careers.

The quality of the editorial content, the ingenuity, efficiency and easy-use of its solutions, such as the Welcome Kit, a simple and collaborative Applicant Tracking System that helps recruiters work in an efficient way, are the key contributors to the company's success. The company is also developing new media formats and SaaS tools for companies, such as a new professional intranet, Welcome Home, that will significantly smoothen the onboarding process and collaboration among employees. Over the past year, Welcome to the Jungle has more than doubled its workforce – with 130 employees, expected to reach 200 within the next few months – and expanded its services to Spain and the Czech Republic. Welcome to the Jungle gathers more than 1m unique visitors per month on its platform and more than 2,500 clients use Welcome to the Jungle on a monthly basis.

« We have been wowed by Welcome to the Jungle's end-to-end platform, initially a media that has now become an essential actor in the world of work and employment, for professionals in searching for purpose at work, and for companies willing to develop their employer brand and attract talents. We are impressed by the vision of its co-founder and CEO, Jérémy Clédât, the company's culture and the business model's capital efficiency” declared Alice Albizzati and Elina Berrebi, Gaia Capital Partners co-founders. *“We applaud the quality of its editorial line, as much as the ingenuity and, efficiency of its solutions. Welcome to the Jungle combines a virtuous model, an international ambition and a strong development potential, so we could not imagine a better first investment for Gaia”.*

Jérémy Clédât, co-founder and CEO of Welcome to the Jungle, says: *“The fundraising announced is key to our development. We are more than happy to have the support of an investor such as Gaia with whom we share not only a societal vision but also great ambitions. Ever since the creation of Welcome to the Jungle, we have had the ambition of proposing a new, more human, approach to work because we strongly believe that, neither individuals nor companies will be able to create long term value without a strong alignment of their values”.*

The support of Gaia will enable Welcome to the Jungle to accelerate its European expansion and develop new SaaS products. Already established in France, Spain and the Czech Republic, the company will expand in Germany and in the UK in 2020. It will offer the same services as it does in France while producing content locally in order to reflect the employment specificities of each country.

About Gaia Capital Partners

Gaia Capital Partners is an entrepreneurial growth equity investment fund. Our mission is to champion the new generation of sustainable entrepreneurs in the field of technology and innovation. We support European scale-ups with the goal to have a positive contribution toward greater environmental and societal stakes. We invest in growth-stage companies from series B and beyond, creating bridges between venture capital and public markets.

Based in Paris, we operate across Europe.

www.gaiacap.co

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Welcome to the jungle

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