

InvestEU Scoreboard
(to be published after the signature of the operation)

Presentation of the financing or investment operation:

Implementing Partner: **NRW.BANK**

Name of the Operation: **NRW.Venture EU Tech&Scale –No.1**

Type of approval :

- ☐ Individual financing or investment operation or
☒ Framework Operation

Name of the final recipient (for direct operations): –Final Recipients will be announced on the dedicated Homepage once Operations are signed

Name of the financial intermediary (for intermediated operations): –

For Framework Operations: Type of Final recipients/Financial Intermediaries

Capital-intensive SMEs, Small Mid-Caps

Country(-ies) of implementation: **Germany (focus on North Rhine-Westphalia)**

Short description of the financing or investment operation:

The Framework Operation (FO) enables NRW.BANK to carry out direct minority equity investments in innovative SMEs and small mid-caps with scalable, technology-driven business models. The FO addresses the equity financing gap in early growth and scale-up stages and aims to strengthen innovation capacity, digitalisation, and industrial resilience in North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany.

Public Statement

Narrative justifying the assessment of Pillars 1-5. The narrative should not contain commercially sensitive or confidential information.

The Framework Operation contributes to the EU objectives of research, innovation, digitalisation and SME competitiveness as set out in Annex II of the InvestEU Regulation, in particular under the Research, Innovation and Digitalisation window (RID Window). It addresses the structural equity financing gap for early-stage and growth-stage technology companies, which are characterised by high capital intensity, long development cycles and limited access to sufficiently large and patient private equity finance.

The Operation is expected to strengthen the innovation capacity, competitiveness and employment base of innovative SMEs and small mid-caps, while applying proportionate sustainability and ESG screening (internal ESG Ratings + Summary of Sustainability Proofing acc. To Section 2.7 of the of the Sustainability Proofing Guidance.

Pillar 3 - Market failure or sub-optimal investment situation addressed by the financing or investment operation (Score) → Score: Very Good (3)

The Framework Operation addresses the equity financing gap for innovative, capital-intensive SMEs and small mid-caps in early growth and scale-up stages in Germany, in particular in the deep tech

and clean tech segments. Private equity capital is frequently insufficient or unavailable for this segment due to the combination of high upfront capital requirements, significant execution risk and long time-to-market.

In addition to this principal market failure, the operation addresses two further sub-optimal investment situations: first, valuation uncertainty arising from the cyclical nature of venture capital markets and the risk of technological paradigm shifts; second, the structural mismatch between the long commercialisation cycles and delayed cash break-even typical of capital-intensive business models and the risk appetite of many private equity investors.

Pillar 4 - Financial and technical contribution by the Implementing Partner (Total score) → Score: Very Good (3)

NRW.BANK provides direct equity and quasi-equity financing, which improves the financial stability of investee companies and avoids mandatory interest payments or repayment obligations. The operation is expected to generate a significant signalling and crowding-in effect, leveraging additional private co-investment on a pari passu basis. NRW.BANK further contributes financial structuring expertise and active ownership support, including advisory board participation and access to its network of public and private co-investors.

Pillar 5 - Impact of the financing or investment operation (Total score) → Score: Very Good (3)

The sub-projects under the Framework Operation are expected to generate good economic and growth impacts by enabling innovative companies to scale their activities, accelerate commercialisation and strengthen their competitive position. Employment impacts are expected to be positive, particularly in research, engineering and technology-intensive functions, primarily in North Rhine-Westphalia.

From a sustainability perspective, NRW.BANK invests in companies with overall sound ESG profiles. Portfolio companies report regularly on environmental, climate and social indicators. The social score is particularly strong: most investee companies have minimal use of temporary employment, relatively low gender-pay gaps and negligible marginal employment. Climate and environmental impacts are mitigated through the focus on innovative, asset-light business models with limited physical footprint.

Pillar 7 - Complementary indicators (NRW.BANK assumptions)

(a) Leverage effect: approximately 5 -10x; Multiplier effect: approximately 12.5 - 25x

(b) Amount of investment mobilised: to be calculated for every sub-project, in accordance with the InvestEU Leverage and Multiplier Effect Calculation Methodology

(c) Estimated number of targeted final recipients: 6 - 8

(d) Investment supporting climate objectives: yes, intended

(e) Investment supporting environmental objectives: yes, intended

(f) Investment supporting digitalisation: yes, intended

(g) Investment supporting industrial transition: yes, intended

(h) Investment supporting just transition: no

(i) Investment for the provision of critical infrastructure: no

(j) Investment in cybersecurity, space and defence: yes, intended

(k) Combination with other Union sources: not intended

(l) Other: follow-on investments possible; 2nd Closing Investment Opportunity

Research, Innovation and Digitalisation window:

(a) Number of enterprises carrying out research and innovation projects: 6 - 8

(b) Contribution to the 3 % R&D/GDP objective: Highly innovative SMEs and small mid-caps typically allocate a material share of operating expenditure to R&D. Direct equity financing supports R&D teams, prototyping and product development.