

Media release

Stuttgart, Germany, 27 March 2019

Boerse Stuttgart, Axel Springer and finanzen.net develop a joint offering for the digital financial world

Information and trading on one platform // Joint venture company planned

Boerse Stuttgart Group and Axel Springer SE with its finanzen.net portal will be working together in future. The partners want to use blockchain technology to provide investors with direct and easy access to digital assets such as crypto currencies, thereby setting a benchmark for this new market underway.

Germany's largest online financial portal finanzen.net already offers investors independent information on financial products as a basis for their investment decisions. As a trading venue, Boerse Stuttgart today provides a transparent and reliable environment for executing investment decisions. In future, the partners will be combining their offerings in the area of digital assets. Investors will find all the services they need for their investments – from information to trading – bundled on a single platform.

As part of the digital transformation of financial markets and products, Boerse Stuttgart Group and finanzen.net are expanding their long-standing cooperation. Axel Springer, Europe's leading digital publisher, brings to the partnership its many years of experience in developing sustainable digital business models. The plan is to establish a joint venture company based in Stuttgart and with an office in Berlin. Boerse Stuttgart Group is to be majority shareholder in the joint venture. Axel Springer and finanzen.net will together hold 30 percent of the joint venture company, which will operate a trading venue for digital assets on the blockchain. The trading venue is set to launch in Germany first in summer of 2019. It will serve both retail and institutional investors.

Alexander Höptner, Chairman of the Management Board of Boerse Stuttgart GmbH: "The aim of Boerse Stuttgart Group is to focus sharply on retail

Boerse Stuttgart GmbH
Börsenstrasse 4
70174 Stuttgart

Media contact
T +49 711 222 985-711
F +49 711 222 985-551
presse@boerse-stuttgart.de

Chairperson of the Supervisory Board:
Dr Michael Völter
Managing Directors: Alexander Höptner
(CEO), Stefan Bolle, Dragan Radanovic
Registered office: Stuttgart, Stuttgart district
Court [Amtsgericht], commercial register
entry HRB 753383

investors and their needs. We have found ideal partners for this in Axel Springer as Europe's leading digital publisher, and in the finanzen.net portal. Together we can offer investors comprehensive and integrated services for digital assets – from in-depth information to trading and custody.”

Dr Andreas Wiele, Member of the Executive Board of Axel Springer SE: “The use of blockchain technology as part of our cooperation with Boerse Stuttgart Group is in line with our strategy of offering Axel Springer customers the entire range of services – from independently researched information right through to the investment process itself.”

The Supervisory Board of the joint venture company will be composed of Alexander Höptner (Chairman of the Management Board of Boerse Stuttgart GmbH), Thomas Munz (Member of the Supervisory Board of Boerse Stuttgart GmbH) and Dr Valentin Schöndienst (Senior Vice President New Business of Axel Springer SE).

Dr Valentin Schöndienst: “Blockchain enables the digital transformation of the financial industry. Boerse Stuttgart has a proven track record in spearheading this development, which makes them the perfect fit for Axel Springer to shape and exploit new business opportunities in this field.”

The joint venture company is to be established soon and is waiting on the approval of the responsible committees and antitrust authorities.

Media contact:**Boerse Stuttgart**

Johannes Frevert

Tel.: +49 711 222985-715

presse@boerse-stuttgart.de**Axel Springer**

Bianca-Maria Dardon Mota

Tel.: +49 30 2591 77641

bianca.dardon@axelspringer.de

About Boerse Stuttgart

Boerse Stuttgart is Germany's leading floor-based exchange and the first choice of retail investors. In Stuttgart, investors can trade equities, securitised derivatives, debt instruments (bonds), exchange-traded fund units (ETFs), investment fund units and participation certificates while benefiting from top-quality execution at the best prices. Boerse Stuttgart leads the German market for exchange-based trading in corporate bonds and is number one in Europe in the securitised derivatives segment. Boerse Stuttgart's hybrid market model integrates trading experts into the electronic trading process. Their role is to inject additional liquidity as required and to ensure that orders are executed quickly and reliably. In order to protect investors and guarantee transparency, Boerse Stuttgart implements all the regulatory and control mechanisms you would expect of an exchange governed by public law. In 2018, Boerse Stuttgart recorded a total trading volume of around EUR 71 billion across all asset classes, making it Europe's tenth largest exchange.

About Axel Springer

Axel Springer is Europe's leading digital publisher. The company, headquartered in Berlin, is active in more than 40 countries with subsidiaries, participations and licenses. Axel Springer SE is divided into three segments: Classifieds Media, News Media and Marketing Media. In 2018, the digital activities contributed 71 percent to revenues and 84 percent to earnings (adj. EBITDA). The company employs more than 16,300 people worldwide.

About finanzen.net

finanzen.net GmbH offers a large portfolio of online portals and mobile offerings. With more than 3.47 million unique users (AGOF 02/2019), the core product www.finanzen.net is Germany's largest trading news portal. finanzen.net combines the most recent data on financial market's development with realtime push quotes for indices, commodities and currencies as well as information on stocks, companies, certificates, funds and economic activity. Interactive tools for chart analysis, sample portfolios and personal news pages allow you to individualize the offering.