

Investment helps TH_NK think big!



Th_nk staff near their Newcastle office, the agency also has offices in London

Beringea has invested £1m of growth capital funding in TH_NK, the award-winning digital agency, through its ProVen VCT. The investment will enable TH_NK to enhance its planning and strategic capabilities and develop its creative team.

In the last few months, TH_NK has been named as one of Europe's fastest-growing digital agencies at the Media Momentum Awards; a 'Top 100' agency by industry magazine New Media Age; and has achieved a top spot in the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 for the third year running. As one of just a handful of digital agencies across the UK to make the Top 50, this is a real reflection of TH_NK's continued growth and success in the sector.

Trevor Hope, Beringea's Chief Investment Officer, has joined TH_NK's board as a non-executive director to help the company achieve their next

phase of expansion, alongside MT Rainey who continues to chair the board.

Trevor commented: "For a young agency, TH_NK has an enviable client list – built upon its reputation for delivering digital solutions that combine excellent creative with cutting-edge technology and an impressive understanding of user experience. This creativity is backed by a strong, ambitious management team with a clear vision for future growth. I am confident that TH_NK is well placed to thrive in the continually evolving digital market place and look forward to working with them."

Tarek Nseir, TH_NK's chief executive said: "The investment from Beringea will allow us to strengthen our position as a leading digital agency and capitalise on a number of growth opportunities within a challenging economic climate.

The investment couldn't have come at a better time, what with the recent appointment of our new MD, Lynne Davidson, and a stream of new business, including LG, Anthropologie and Curtis Brown. We're delighted that Trevor is joining our board and helping TH_NK to expand not just on a national scale, but internationally too."

"The investment from Beringea will allow us to strengthen our position as a leading digital agency"

Tarek Nseir, TH_NK's chief executive

In addition to the funding, Beringea will be supporting TH_NK with its digital experience and its network of industry executives, entrepreneurs and thought leaders.

Steak Media celebrates

This February ProVen portfolio company Steak Media celebrated its fifth birthday in style. The digital marketing agency achieved the prestigious 'one star status' in the 2010 Best Companies accreditation scheme, which awards an elite 'Michelin style' star rating system for organisations that demonstrate high levels of employee engagement.

Based on staff feedback, organisations receive a Best Companies index score that determines their star rating compared to a fixed standard. 1,086 companies from both private and public sectors applied for Best Companies accreditation this year, of which 402 were awarded star status. Steak was one of only 28 media companies to meet the standard.

In the same month, WhiteCloud Digital Solutions Ltd (WCDS) signed Steak as the first commercial partner to use their WhiteCloud affiliate management interface. Steak will be using the serving, tracking and reporting platform to manage affiliate campaigns on behalf of its clients.

The last five years have seen portfolio company Steak Media grow to become one of the UK's leading digital agencies. The company has opened offices in New York and Melbourne, increased its client offering to span the full range of digital media services, and now works with some of the UK's biggest digital advisers and top brands.



STEAKGROUP

www.steak.co.uk

Second investment in Eagle Rock

Early this year Beringea made a further investment of £800k into portfolio company Eagle Rock Entertainment. The investment, which was made through ProVen VCT, will finance Eagle Rock's buyout of a private shareholder and support plans for further growth.

Beringea's investment director Karen McCormick sits on the board of Eagle Rock as non-executive director. "We are very pleased to make this second investment. Eagle Rock is an established, highly profitable business with an outstanding management team. The company continues to strengthen its proposition, both increasing its impressive rights catalogue and

identifying new ways to leverage it. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the company." said Karen.

Eagle Rock is a leading producer, publisher and worldwide distributor of music programming and documentaries for TV and DVD. Key catalogue properties include live concert performances from a huge range of artists including Queen, Jeff Beck, ZZ Top, Kiss, Bee Gees, Tina Turner and The Who. The company's catalogue also contains the 'Classic Album' series which includes releases from Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley and Nirvana. Last autumn the company produced, and distributed worldwide, the DVD of



eagle rock entertainment ltd

the successful new Monty Python documentary "Almost the Truth – the Lawyers Cut."

"I am delighted that Beringea has made a further investment in the company; Eagle continues to enjoy working with such a supportive and responsive investor."

Terry Shand, Eagle Rock's executive chairman and CEO

www.eagle-rock.com



Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue of ProVen News



Stuart Veale
Managing Partner

Whilst we are seeing early signs of economic recovery in the UK, the banking sector's attitude to providing growth funding to SMEs remains reticent. We believe this offers a great opportunity for VCTs – we are seeing an increase in the number of companies looking to expand as the economic climate improves, coupled with the potential to invest at extremely good valuations.

The cover story about our recent investment in digital design agency TH_NK is great example of an exciting young business looking to expand. TH_NK's strong management team, along with the cutting edge creative services the agency supplies, made this a very attractive proposition and we look forward to helping them achieve the next stage of their growth.

The ProVen VCT and ProVen Growth & Income VCT continue to perform well – the original ordinary share classes of both VCTs continue to be the best performing VCT shares of their respective launch years and are amongst the top dividend payers of all time.

ProVen Health is also continuing to make good progress– from 1st February 2009 to 31st October 2009 (the last interim management statement) the total return has increased from 65.0p to 68.7p, an uplift of 5.7%. An interim dividend of 1p per share was paid to all ProVen Health shareholders on 4 December 2009.

“We rate this the top generalist offer for the second year running “

Martin Churchill, Tax Efficient Review.

I would like to remind all readers that applications for the ProVen D Share Linked Offer and our Ordinary Share Top Up Offers for this tax year must be received by 5pm on April 5th 2010. As this is Easter Monday we recommend

that application forms are sent to arrive by 5pm on Thursday 1 April.

The ProVen Ordinary Share Top-Ups offer an opportunity to invest into all three of our mature portfolios, ProVen VCT, PGI VCT and the healthcare focused ProVen Health VCT. Following a successful fundraising of £11m last tax year, there is now a further opportunity to invest in the D share class of ProVen VCT and PGI VCT through our D Share Linked Offer. Please see the panel below for contact details.

“The management's performance record is excellent “

Richard Allen, Allenbridge.

Finally I am delighted to say that our D Share Offer has been rated top VCT offer by two independent industry researchers – Allenbridge and Tax Efficient Review. Martin Churchill, Editor of Tax Efficient Review commented “We rate this the top generalist offer for the second year running. The D Share offer should be attractive to those seeking investment in a new portfolio of shares and the O Share Top Ups will be attractive to those looking to access an existing portfolio”. In his review, Richard Allen of Allenbridge highlighted Beringea's performance saying “The management's performance record is excellent with a proven capability of selecting and supporting unquoted businesses before engineering profitable realisations.”

For more information on the D Share Linked Offer or the ProVen Ordinary Share Top Up Offers please contact Shane Elliott on 0207 845 7824, email selliott@beringea.co.uk, visit www.provenvcts.co.uk or speak to your financial adviser.

Portfolio News

Digital Healthcare's New Electronic Annual Reporting Service

ProVen Health VCT portfolio company Digital Healthcare, the leading supplier of software to UK Diabetic Retinal Screening Services, has released a new software module to help screening programmes with their national reporting requirements.

The Electronic Annual Reporting Service Module (EARS Connector) provides an automated method to populate the online annual reporting service required by the English National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy.

Nicola Winter, Acting Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Manager at

Wakefield District Community Healthcare Services, one of the initial users of the module, said "Using the EARS Connector was so easy and reduced vast amounts of time and effort by automatically populating the EARS template – fantastic!"

Espresso Education Wins BETT Award

ProVen Portfolio company Espresso Education, the UK's leading digital curriculum service, was delighted to be awarded the ICT Service & Support Award at the 2010 BETT awards. The BETT Awards recognise outstanding educational products and learning solutions and are the most prestigious in the sector.

Espresso has already won five other BETT awards, however the ICT Service and Support Award was a new category

this year, celebrating UK based companies and educational organisations that provide effective services, support and professional development in order to ensure that ICT really makes an impact in the classroom.

These awards demonstrate the strength of Espresso's customer service and management team as well the quality of its products.



This is Espresso's 6th BETT award

Contact

For more information please call us on

0845 686 0225, or email info@beringea.co.uk or visit www.provenvcts.co.uk

Beringea is an international private equity firm with offices in **London, Detroit and Shanghai**

London Office

39 Earlham Street
London
WC2H 9LT
t: +44 (0) 2078457820
f: +44 (0) 2078457821
e: info@beringea.co.uk

Detroit Office

32330 W.12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills
Michigan 48334
t: +1 248 489 9000
f: +1 248 489 8819
e: info@beringea.com

Shanghai Office

Unit 1, No. 2588
Jinhai Rd
Pudong New Area
Shanghai, 200122
t: +1 248 489 9000
e: info@beringea.com

This newsletter has been approved by Beringea LLP ("Beringea"). The information and opinions contained herein were prepared by Beringea. The information herein is believed by Beringea to be reliable and has been obtained, where possible, from public sources believed to be reliable. However, Beringea makes no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of such information. Copyright© 2010 Beringea LLP. FRN138888, Beringea is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.