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POELLATH advises existing investor on EUR 450 million Series C financing round in Helsing

The European defense AI company Helsing has closed a Series C financing round with a total volume of EUR 450 million. The round was led by General Catalyst. Other investors include Elad Gil, Accel, Lightspeed, Plural and Greenoaks. The financing round is subject to regulatory approval.

Helsing was founded in Munich at the beginning of 2021 by Gundbert Scherf, former member of the management team at the German Federal Ministry of Defense, Torsten Reil, former CEO of gaming start-up NaturalMotion, and physicist Niklas Höhler. Helsing develops artificial intelligence to digitally modernize existing weapons systems - fighter jets, submarines and tanks - and adapt them to current military challenges. The start-up has been active in Ukraine since 2022 and works closely with the Ukrainian government there. Since its foundation, Helsing has been awarded a number of government contracts, including the upgrade of the German Eurofighter Electronic Warfare (with strategic investor and committed partner Saab AB), the AI infrastructure for the Future Combat Air System (FCAS, with the HIS consortium) and a number of confidential contracts in maritime and land-based sectors.

The new funds will be used for product development, with a particular focus on securing European sovereignty in politically uncertain times, including the protection of NATO's eastern flank.

POELLATH advised an existing investor on the financing round with the following team:

- Christian Tönies (partner, lead, M&A/VC, Berlin/Munich)
- Markus Döllner (counsel, co-lead, M&A/VC, Munich)
- Dr. Sebastian Gerlinger (partner, M&A/VC, Berlin/Munich)

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