

PRESS RELEASE

## **Whiffle secures €3 million to accelerate energy transition with revolutionary weather model**

**Whiffle, a Delft University of Technology spin-off, has successfully developed cutting-edge technology for highly accurate, localised weather forecasting. Thanks to a €3 million capital injection from impact investors ENERGIQ and SHIFT Invest, the company will now be able to expand and achieve rapid growth. Global leaders in the renewable energy sector are already using Whiffle's model.**

Following developments at Delft University of Technology over a period of many years, Whiffle was founded by Harmen Jonker and Remco Verzijlbergh in 2015. The company offers several advantages over conventional meteorological services, not least the ultra-high resolution of its forecasts. Whiffle runs the calculations of its weather model on graphic processing units (GPUs), allowing local turbulence and underlying processes and conditions in the atmosphere to be captured in greater detail.

Optimised by artificial intelligence and machine learning, this is the world's first operational weather model based on Large Eddy Simulation (LES). Whiffle can therefore provide its customers with very fast and accurate weather forecasts that account for various factors such as the local effects of hills, buildings and windmills. Although the technology can help boost efficiency in many sectors, Whiffle is currently focusing on the renewable energy market.

Whiffle CEO Harmen Jonker says: "We can use this investment to further grow the company and bring our weather model to market in a number of sectors. In recent years, we have been working hard to refine the technology and make it easy for customers to use. We are now seeing a significant increase in commercial interest. This investment will allow us to expand even faster and continue to improve our model in the coming years."

### **Accelerating the energy transition**

Whiffle's highly advanced weather model makes renewable energy production more predictable. The technology is of great value to the energy sector because better forecasts reduce the costs of weather risks. More accurate weather forecasting lowers imbalance prices for energy companies, for example, which has a direct effect on their margins. The model can also be used to optimise the configuration of wind farms and better predict future energy yields. This could result in higher yields and lower financing costs. Weather forecasts and wind simulations are of crucial importance to various players in the sector, including energy traders, wind farm

owners and developers. The model offers great opportunities in other areas as well, from aviation to agriculture and from shipping to better air pollution forecasting.

### **Funding**

The capital injection is financed by impact investors SHIFT Invest and ENERGIIQ.

Janneke Bik, partner at SHIFT Invest, says: “We are impressed with the team and the state-of-the-art technology it has developed. As the growth of renewable resources will make the energy system more weather dependent, accurate simulations and forecasts are crucial to the energy transition. Whiffle therefore fits perfectly with our fund’s objective.”

Rafael Koene, fund manager at ENERGIIQ, concurs: “Whiffle’s technology can have a major impact on the energy transition by further reducing the overall costs of renewably generated energy. We have great confidence in the company and its model and are very much looking forward to working with the team.”

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### *Note for press*

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**About Whiffle**

Whiffle ([weatherfinecasting.com](http://weatherfinecasting.com)) began as a spin-off of Delft University of Technology and has been operational since 2016. Delft Enterprises was an early investor. Firmly rooted in science and fundamental research, the company has continued to pursue cutting-edge R&D to further develop LES models and a unique implementation on high performance computing systems. This has resulted in the world's first LES-based operational weather model that can perform highly accurate, ultra-high-resolution weather forecasts. Whiffle's technology is currently used by global market leaders in renewable energy to develop and operate wind and solar power plants. Its model is also being applied in other areas, including air pollution forecasting, aviation and agriculture.

**About Shift Invest**

SHIFT Invest ([shiftinvest.com](http://shiftinvest.com)) is a Dutch impact venture capital fund that invests in innovations related to food and agriculture, bio-based technologies, circularity, smart materials and the energy transition. Its strategic investments aim to achieve positive environmental impacts and financial returns. Together with its fund partners, SHIFT Invest offers entrepreneurs an extensive network and insight into a range of sectors. The fund is managed by New Balance Impact Investors (NBI Investors), a team of experienced investment professionals and entrepreneurs. NBI Investors manages five venture capital funds, supported by strong and involved partners that share its mission to transform investments into impact.

**About InnovationQuarter**

InnovationQuarter is the regional development agency for West Holland. It invests in innovative, fast-growing local enterprises and helps transnational companies become established in this unique delta region. InnovationQuarter also facilitates national and international collaboration between forward-thinking entrepreneurs, knowledge institutes and governments. By collaborating with the business community, the agency is helping to make West Holland one of the most innovative regions in Europe. As a lifecycle financier, InnovationQuarter finances companies in different cycles of their business growth and draws its investments from four funds: IQCapital, UNIIQ, ENERGIQ and the Rotterdam Energy Transition Fund.