

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**Media Contact**

Kerem Ozmen

Ozmen Ventures

775-742-2183

Keremozmen1@gmail.com

Ozmen Ventures Launches \$5 Million Fund to Spark Local Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

RENO, Nev. (Jan. ##, 2017) - Ozmen Ventures has announced its launch as one of the first early-stage investment funds in northern Nevada. Founded by Eren and Fatih Ozmen, owners of Sparks-based Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), a global aerospace and defense company, the fund aims to invest in young and dynamic local startups and cultivate the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. Ozmen Ventures is a seed and early-stage venture capital fund headquartered in Reno. The fund has already made an investment in ClickBio, an innovator in the laboratory consumables industry.

“The Ozmen Fund fills a critical gap in Reno's startup ecosystem” said Doug Erwin, vice-president of entrepreneurial development at the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). “Early stage capital has historically been challenging to find locally and Ozmen Ventures really changes the landscape.”

“Our organizational strategy has been based on maintaining an entrepreneurial culture and focusing on growth based on innovation, agility and synergy,” said Eren Ozmen, president of SNC. “We intend to apply this value creation experience to help startup businesses under Ozmen Ventures to grow.”

With the Ozmens at the helm, SNC has grown from 20 employees to more than 3,000 personnel in 34 locations worldwide. They have acquired 19 small companies, and have grown each of them into large organizations within the SNC enterprise. SNC has been honored as one of “The World’s Top 10 Most

Innovative Companies in Space,” and one of America’s fastest growing companies.

Kerem Ozmen, managing director of Ozmen Ventures, shares Eren’s vision. "We intend to take a hands-on approach from the very beginning, collaborating with passionate entrepreneurs from all sectors to transform their vision into reality. We have a shared commitment to innovation, new technologies and entrepreneurship. Our vision is to make Reno into a thriving entrepreneurial hub by attracting outside talent and supporting the best local entrepreneurs to become market leaders."

With a long track record of success in starting, guiding and investing in small to medium-sized companies, the fund’s strategic advisors will help guide ambitious start-up teams through the labyrinthine journey from conception to value creation. The lead advisor of the fund, Chris Howard, is CEO of Northstar Investment Advisors, principal of Nevada Ventures, and a professor at University of Nevada, Reno. Northstar was ranked in the top 10% for performance of all nationally registered VCs.

As its first investment, Ozmen Ventures funded Clickbio, a Reno-based company in the laboratory consumables market. Ozmen Ventures co-invested alongside with Watershed Growth Ventures, another local venture fund with a shared vision for supporting early-stage companies in the Reno area.

#### **About Ozmen Ventures:**

Ozmen Ventures is a seed and early-stage venture capital fund. We are headquartered in Reno, Nevada, and a pillar of the burgeoning entrepreneurial ecosystem. Founded by Fatih Ozmen and Eren Ozmen, owners of Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), a customer-focused technology solutions company in the areas of aerospace, aviation, electronics and systems integration, Ozmen Ventures focuses on high-growth start-up opportunities across various sectors. Visit Ozmen Ventures online at [ozmenventures.com](http://ozmenventures.com).

#### **About Watershed Growth Ventures:**

Watershed Growth Ventures, LLC is a specialized consultancy and post-accelerator operators fund focused on investing in and scaling early stage companies in Northern Nevada. Headquartered in the Innevation Center powered by Switch in Reno, the Watershed team connects entrepreneurs to the regional ecosystem, provides strategic and operational guidance and invests seed capital into its portfolio companies. For more information, go to [watershedgrowthventures.com](http://watershedgrowthventures.com).

**About Clickbio:**

Clickbio is an innovator in the design and manufacturing of patented laboratory consumables for use with manual, semi-automated, and robotic precision fluid measuring and handling systems. Its newest offering is custom-designed lab consumables (CDLC). Visit Clickbio online at [click-bio.com](http://click-bio.com).

###