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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tumbleweed raises €6.9M to build Antigravity machine

After launching Austria's first commercial satellite aboard a SpaceX rocket earlier this year, the Vienna-based startup has closed the largest SpaceTech seed round in Austrian history, led by PactVC.

VIENNA, Austria – 3 November 2026 – Space technology company Tumbleweed has raised €6.9 million, the largest SpaceTech seed round ever raised in Austria, four months after the startup put the country's first commercial satellite in orbit. The round was led by PactVC, with participation from Vanagon Ventures, early backer Prototype Capital, EWOR and a group of international investors and angel backers. Notably, over one-third of Tumbleweed's 25-person team also invested personal funds. Tumbleweed opens microgravity to anyone, without them having to become a space company first.

> *"This funding will allow us to scale what we've proven on our first mission, Oasis Alpha: that microgravity can be a widely accessible industrial resource. We're so excited to be able to bring this transformative capability to even more customers, and ultimately build a future where microgravity is used to make 10x better cures for cancer, 10x better semiconductors and 10x faster developed pharmaceuticals."*
> – Julian Rothenbuchner, Tumbleweed CEO and Co-Founder

> *"The fact that Austrian space technology is mobilising international private capital and is already being used commercially in space sends an important signal about the strength of our research and business location. Companies like these strengthen domestic value creation, create skilled jobs, and demonstrate that Austria is internationally competitive in demanding future technologies."*
> – Peter Hanke, Austrian Federal Minister for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Eliminating space certification bottlenecks

Qualifying an experiment for spaceflight traditionally takes years. Tumbleweed removes that step entirely with its proprietary "Pods". Pods are fault-isolated payload containers that arrive pre-certified and keep customer experiments powered and connected in orbit. Research groups, manufacturers and R&D teams send their payload directly to Tumbleweed, and receive data during flight. From 2028, the Pod itself comes back, with the samples inside. Compared to equivalent

experiments conducted via the International Space Station, Tumbleweed customers ship 5x faster and 10x cheaper.

> *"Tumbleweed put Austria's first commercial satellite in orbit in less time than it usually takes to certify a single experiment. Julian has done exactly what he told us he would do when we first met him, only faster. Now every lab and manufacturer can use space without becoming a space company first."*
> – Daniel Dippold, CEO of EWOR

Every customer so far has been a first-time space user. Instead of spending years becoming space-ready, they stay focused on the research they are expert in and leave the spaceflight to Tumbleweed. Pods come in different sizes, and mission costs start at €15,000.

From stealth to revenue in orbit

Oasis Alpha was built in nine months, five times faster than industry standard, and launched on 7 July 2026 aboard SpaceX Transporter-17 as Austria's first commercial satellite, carrying four customers. The mission was sold out a year before launch and paid for upfront.
Tumbleweed emerged from stealth shortly before that launch. Just two years after founding, the team has achieved revenue in orbit and grown to 25 across two offices in Austria and the Netherlands.

> *"Tumbleweed completely rethinks how R&D for industry and science in space should be done. Instead of years of preparation to send your satellites up, you simply order one of their boxes and they shoot it into space. This allows rapid iteration for the next generation of space technologies. It's hard to overestimate how important this can become."*
> – Andreas Klinger, Founder of Prototype Capital

What the round funds

Austria's largest SpaceTech seed round will fund three missions in 2027, carrying more than 10 customers. Those missions are already filling up with payloads from leading labs in medical research, biotech and agritech. The capital will also accelerate development of Oasis Beta, Tumbleweed's next-generation orbital platform scheduled for 2028, which will support larger payloads and feature re-entry capability to safely bring experimental samples back to Earth. Bookings for both the 2027 missions and Oasis Beta are open and filling fast.

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Note to Editors

Media Assets
High-resolution photos of the hardware, team portraits, and company logos are available for download here: Media Assets
All images are cleared for editorial use
Please credit: Tumbleweed (SpaceX or EXOLAUNCH as indicated)

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About Tumbleweed
Tumbleweed makes access to space as easy as mailing a package with the ultimate aim of making microgravity an industrial resource. The company sells Pods to labs, manufacturers and R&D teams. Pod is a modular payload container that handles power, data and certification. Oasis is the free-flying orbital platform that hosts Pods and returns them to Earth. Founded in 2024 and now a team of 25 across Vienna and Delft, Tumbleweed leverages rapid hardware development and transparent pricing to get commercial partners from idea to space faster than ever before.
More at: tumbleweed.com

About PactVC
PactVC is an early-stage venture firm backing founders with global ambition. Built by operators who have scaled and exited businesses across multiple markets, PactVC invests where it can contribute directly and stays close as companies develop.
More at: pactvc.com

About Vanagon Ventures
Vanagon Ventures is a Munich-based Pre-Seed and Seed venture firm backing Europe’s most consequential Deep Tech founders. Built by entrepreneurs and operators who have led some of Europe’s leading startup accelerators, Vanagon leads early rounds and stays close to help teams move from pilot to industrial scale.
More at: vanagon.vc