# FT PARTNERS FINTECH INDUSTRY RESEARCH

**January 5, 2021** 

# FINTECH CEO INTERVIEW

# **MOONFARE**

with CEO Dr. Steffen Pauls

Platform for Investing in Private Equity Funds



The Only Investment Bank Focused Exclusively on FinTech

San Francisco • New York • London

#### **Overview of FT Partners**

- Financial Technology Partners ("FT Partners") was founded in 2001 and is the only investment banking firm focused exclusively on FinTech
- FT Partners regularly publishes research highlighting the most important transactions, trends and insights impacting the global Financial Technology landscape. Our unique insight into FinTech is a direct result of executing hundreds of transactions in the sector combined with over 19 years of exclusive focus on Financial Technology

#### FT Partners' Advisory Capabilities



#### FT Partners' FinTech Industry Research





Named Silicon Valley's #1 FinTech Banker (2016) and ranked #2 Overall by The Information



Ranked #1 Most Influential Person in all of FinTech in Institutional Investors "FinTech Finance 40"



Numerous Awards for Transaction Excellence including "Deal of the Decade"

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#### **Moonfare Overview**

#### **MOONFARE**

#### **Company Overview**

# **MOONFARE**

CEO: Dr. Steffen Pauls Headquarters: Berlin, Germany Founded: 2016

- Moonfare enables individual investors to invest in top-tier private equity funds with low minimums
- Together with over 1,000 investors on the platform, Moonfare has invested over €500 million in a carefully curated selection of private equity funds
- Moonfare's team of professionals brings together decades of experience from leading investment institutions and technology companies

15 minutes

€50k

0.5%

From signup to subscription

Minimum investment

Annual management fee

#### **Selected Financing History**

Date	Amount	Lead Investor(s)
06/28/19	\$28	Lamivoie Capital Partners; Undisclosed Investors

#### **Products & Services Overview**



Steady Access to Top-Tier Deal Flow Long-standing fund relationships & strong aggregate demand ensure access



**Extensive Network of Experts** 

Outside-in fund analysis leverages Moonfare's network of industry veterans



Rigorous, Data-Driven Process

In-depth due diligence assesses funds relative to selection criteria

#### **Selected Fund Managers**

















#### Interview with Steffen Pauls

#### **MOONFARE**

# MOONFARE Steffen Pauls CEO



Steffen Pauls is the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Moonfare. Steffen is a serial entrepreneur with a strong background in the private equity industry. Before becoming an entrepreneur, Steffen served as a Managing Director of private equity at KKR. Prior to joining KKR, he was co-founder and served as CEO of firstfive AG. He served as Chairman of The Supervisory Board at A.T.U Auto-Teile-Unger Investment GmbH & Co. KG and as a member of the Advisory Board at Versatel, Serbia Broadband and Hertha BSC.

# Steffen, you have an extensive background in private equity investing. What fundamental issue did you recognize in the industry that led you to found Moonfare?

Well, it started as a very personal problem. When I left KKR after more than a decade, I couldn't invest in the funds anymore. I could not write a \$10 million ticket, the typical minimum for outsiders allocating to a KKR fund, but I wanted to keep private equity in my portfolio. So, I built Moonfare to fix the problem and give qualified individuals access to the best private equity funds with low minimums. And I decided to do it as a FinTech with a world class product and engineering team, so the whole investment process would be digital, and the investor experience would be as easy as possible.

So far, we have more than €500 million assets under management and more than 1,000 investors. The product-market fit is clearly there, and now we are 150% focused on scaling and expanding the business.

Moonfare allows investors to register and invest in PE funds in as little as 15 minutes – how are you able to do this so quickly? How does your onboarding process work?

All of the documents are auto-populated based on information the user provides in his or her profile. We do all ID verification digitally. That allows us to expedite the KYC/AML process without sacrificing quality. Most banks and financial institutions who offer private equity are still using paper, mail and sometimes faxes.

"... I built Moonfare to fix the problem and give qualified individuals access to the best private equity funds with low minimums."

### FinTech CEO Interview: Moonfare

#### Interview with Steffen Pauls (cont.)

### **MOONFARE**

#### MOONFARE Exclusive Interview - Steffen Pauls

"The managers we back — ones who emphasize operational value creation at their portfolio companies — are shown to outperform in complex macroeconomic environments, like the one we are experiencing now."

#### What makes private equity an attractive investment opportunity for individuals?

How much time do you have? I will keep it short: These days looking at interest rates (low or negative) you have to be in the market. The question is which market.

After a record year of central bank stimulus — \$3 trillion added to the Fed's balance sheet and the Fed moving even into corporate debt — the stock market is doing great. But how long is that going to last? And then you have to consider correlation in public markets from the central banks' buy-everything approach. How can you hedge when all assets are moving together and fixed income is not performing?

Private equity adds a new asset class to any portfolio, increasing diversity and enhancing returns. You ask, why? Private equity performance is not perfectly correlated with other assets (stocks, real estate, bonds). On top of that, investors who allocate to private equity funds are protected from the inflated valuations in the stock market because the fund managers' deal teams are always thinking about defensible entry valuations.

The managers we back — ones who emphasize operational value creation at their portfolio companies — are shown to outperform in complex macroeconomic environments, like the one we are experiencing now.

#### Can you describe Moonfare's fee structure?

In a word: simple. We charge a 1% setup fee on invested capital and then 50bps per annum for the lifetime of the investment. We charge no carry. There are also fees involved with running the feeder vehicles that hold our investors' capital that add up to a couple of percentage points. Obviously the more we grow, the lower the fees for investors as the economies of scale at the feeder-fund level are tremendous.

#### **MOONFARE**

#### Interview with Steffen Pauls (cont.)

#### MOONFARE Exclusive Interview - Steffen Pauls

"...We have an inhouse investment team...they diligence hundreds of funds and consider the managers' performance from every angle...We approve fewer than 5% of the funds that come to Moonfare."

# How is Moonfare sourcing funds? What types of funds are currently available on your platform?

Great questions. If I can tell you one thing about Moonfare's fund selection, it's that we are obsessed with quality.

To the first question about fund selection, we have an in-house investment team. They diligence hundreds of funds and consider the managers' performance from every angle — the team, keyman risk, sector choice, deal flow, investment process, return persistence, what operational value creation levers do they use...

With respect to intellectual rigor and analysis, the Moonfare investment team is on par or better with the one you find at a large institutional investor. The team is led by Magnus Grufman, one of our managing directors and an alumnus of Apax Partners, HBS, J.P. Morgan and the Stockholm School of Economics; and Sweta Chattopadhyay, who worked at one of the UK's largest pension funds with over GBP 30bn under management and studied at the London School of Economics and INSEAD.

The best funds identified in the due diligence process come before the Moonfare Investment Committee, which is chaired by myself. Winson Ng, a private equity veteran with senior experience at UBS Wealth Management and the Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC with experience in >100 fund investments, recently joined the Committee. We approve fewer than 5% of the funds that come to Moonfare.

The focus is quality, full stop. I can't name specific funds on the platform right now for regulatory reasons, but we just launched a healthcare-focused venture capital fund, our first co-investment fund, our first mixed-strategy distressed fund. Many of the strategies on our platform are top quartile, according to the Cambridge Associates benchmarks.

#### **MOONFARE**

#### Interview with Steffen Pauls (cont.)

#### MOONFARE Exclusive Interview - Steffen Pauls

"This is just the beginning. We are pushing towards a world where private equity investments can be traded like the most liquid asset classes."

#### How does Moonfare's secondary trading window work?

Liquidity is one of the major hurdles for private equity investors, and it's a topic we are doggedly innovating around. Stay tuned for news on this front from us in the very near future.

To your question: One year into an investment, our clients can signal interest in selling their stake for any reason. A few times per year during the secondary trading window, we hold a structured auction process to provide reliable and optimal liquidity events to investors who need them.

This is just the beginning. We are pushing towards a world where private equity investments can be traded like the most liquid asset classes. Efficiently matching buyers and sellers, narrowing bid-ask spreads, getting all the technology in place for a fully fledged marketplace — these are all core areas of innovation for Moonfare.

# What's your distribution model? Have you primarily acquired customers directly, or through partnerships with wealth managers and banks?

We do all the above. We have partnered with Berenberg, the oldest private bank in Germany, along with a fleet of multi-family offices and others to build a strong B2B2C business. The pipeline of new partners is very exciting. And then we have a robust B2C pipeline powered by our in-house marketing and sales teams. B2C is the primary means of acquiring new investors, but we see unlimited upside from the B2B2C business — and likely a snowball effect around our brand when both business streams are firing on all cylinders.

On a tactical level, we acquire customers every way we can: We have an ambassador program, we generate leads through marketing and outreach, and we are always emphasizing the brand and endeavoring to educate people about the asset classes we offer and the benefits of private markets investing.

#### Interview with Steffen Pauls (cont.)

#### MOONFARE Exclusive Interview – Steffen Pauls

"Think about the stock market less than a century ago. Commissions were high, investing was difficult...We see the same trend happening in private markets. Right now, they are like the stock market in the 1950s. Moonfare is changing that."

# What's the long-term vision for Moonfare? What new products or services do you plan to offer customers in the coming years?

I can tell you the obvious things: We are going to expand into new asset classes and new investments formats. Through Moonfare, investors will soon have access to private credit, hedge funds, direct investments – on top of what we are offering so far. As I stated before, we are also innovating around liquidity and constantly making our platform more efficient.

But let me end with a quick story. Think about the stock market less than a century ago. Commissions were high, investing was difficult. Fewer than 5% of Americans owned stocks in the 1950s. Look where we are today: Free trading is the norm, and everyone is comfortable with public equities and increasingly more complex instruments like derivatives.

We see the same trend happening in private markets. Right now, they are like the stock market in the 1950s. Moonfare is changing that. That's the long-term vision.

# What markets are you operating in today? Do you have plans for geographic expansion in the future?

Today we are in Germany, the UK, Switzerland, France, Spain, Hong Kong and Luxembourg. We are moving fast into other markets in Europe and APAC, like Singapore.

#### Selected FT Partners Research - Click to View



Circle's \$25 million Financing



Clearpool's Sale to BMO



Trumid's \$200 million Financing



Forge's Merger with SharesPost



Addepar Raises \$117 million in Series E Financing



Robinhood Raises \$660 million in Series G Financing



Empower Retirement Acquires
Personal Capital for up to \$1
billion



PrimaryBid Raises \$50 million in Series B Financing

**VIEW MORE FT PARTNERS RESEARCH** 

### Selected FT Partners Capital Markets / WealthTech Transactions

#### M&A Transactions















































FT Partners has advised on some of the most prominent and groundbreaking transactions in the Securities / Capital Markets / Wealth Technology sectors

### FT Partners Advises Trumid on its \$200 million Growth Capital Investment

#### Overview of Transaction

- On August 12, 2020, Trumid announced the completion of a \$200 million growth capital investment at a valuation of over \$1 billion led by Dragoneer Investment Group, with participation from new investors including TPG Capital, and funds and accounts managed by BlackRock and T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc
- Trumid is a US corporate bond trading platform that brings trading efficiency and connectivity to credit professionals
- The Company has differentiated itself by collaborating with market participants to create innovative trading solutions
  - Since its launch one year ago, Trumid's Attributed Trading (AT)
    protocol has established a dominant position in dealer streaming and
    bilateral dealer-client trading
- Trumid has experienced extraordinary growth in activity across its trading platform, with volumes up nearly 500% in 2020 from its network that has grown to over 500 institutions worldwide

#### **Significance of Transaction**

 The growth capital from this financing will support broadening of Trumid's trading protocols and expansion into adjacent products and geographies

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Trumid
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise within Capital Markets Tech, as well as its successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

# FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its financing led by



with participation from



& funds and accounts managed by

BLACKROCK T.RowePrice®

for a total amount of

\$200,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Circle on its \$25 million Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On July 30, 2020, Circle announced it has raised \$25 million in financing from
  Digital Currency Group as part of a strategic partnership with Genesis aimed at
  enhancing Circle's new suite of products for businesses and developers with
  USDC-based yield and lending services
  - Digital Currency Group is the parent company of Genesis
- Circle is a global FinTech firm that enables businesses of all sizes to harness the power of digital currencies and blockchains for payments, commerce and financial applications
  - Circle is the pioneer of USDC, the fastest growing, regulated digital currency backed by the US Dollar
- In Q2 2020, Circle launched its new suite of Platform Services, providing businesses with a comprehensive suite of products and APIs for integrating and implementing stablecoins for payments, global commerce, and financial applications

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- Through the partnership, Circle and Genesis will offer market solutions for businesses and developers who are seeking to generate strong positive yield from their own or customer USDC holdings
- The partnership will also provide access to USDC-based credit for businesses and merchants that are using USDC for treasury operations and business payments
- Circle and Genesis have established a leadership position providing core infrastructure supporting a new global financial system

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial advisor to Circle
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise in the digital asset and and blockchain sectors, as well as its successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive financial advisor to



on its financing from

DIGITAL CURRENCY GROUP

for a total amount of

\$25,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Forge on its Merger with SharesPost

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On May 12, 2020, Forge announced its merger with SharesPost
- SharesPost is a private market alternative trading system focused on enabling retail and institutional investors and company employees to access liquidity
  - Founded in 2009, SharesPost built the first private equity marketplace, which strove to connect buyers and sellers of private securities through its proprietary trading platform
- Forge's digital platform streamlines liquidity for hundreds of unicorn issuers and thousands of institutional and retail investors from around the world
  - Leveraging its robust technology, operations and trust infrastructure,
     Forge delivers a suite of services that includes trading, custody, data and company solutions

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- Together, the two companies will create one of the largest global private securities marketplaces, bringing liquidity and transparency at scale to pre-IPO companies and investors
- Combined, the two will have facilitated thousands of transactions with more than \$6 billion in private market transaction volume, for hundreds of unique issuers and over 1 million customers
- The deal will provide Forge with deeper insight on private company trends, as well as bid, offer, and pricing data that provides transparency to clients and partners to better understand and engage in the private markets

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Forge
- FT Partners previously advised Forge on its <u>\$70 million Series B financing</u>
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep alternative marketplace domain expertise and its continued success in providing buy-side advisory to top-tier FinTech companies

# FTP Securities LLC.

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with





### FT Partners Advises Clearpool on its Sale to BMO

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On January 22, 2020, Bank of Montreal (BMO) announced that it had signed an
  agreement to acquire 100% of the outstanding shares of Clearpool Group
  ("Clearpool"), an Algorithmic Management System transforming electronic
  trading with a fully customizable suite of trading tools
- Headquartered in New York, Clearpool empowers market participants by providing greater transparency, efficiency and control through next generation trading technology
- Clearpool's solution provides total visibility and control, from strategy to execution, through its cloud-based algorithmic management system, execution and analytics portals
- Bank of Montreal (TSX, NYSE: BMO) is a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America

#### Significance of Transaction

 BMO's electronic platform (Capital Markets, Securities and Equity) has a successful, fast-growing trading business in Canada, and adding Clearpool's capabilities in algorithmic management will allow BMO to deliver next-gen trading technology to its global client base

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Clearpool
- The transaction underscores FT Partners' successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for Capital Markets Technology companies
- This transaction also highlights FT Partners' expertise in bringing our clients together with world class strategic investors and acquirers

# FTP Securities LLC.

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its sale to





### FT Partners Advises BlackRock on its Acquisition of FutureAdvisor

#### Overview of Transaction

- On August 26, 2015, BlackRock (NYSE: BLK) announced a definitive agreement to acquire 100% of FutureAdvisor
- FutureAdvisor is a leading digital wealth management platform with technology-enabled investment advice capabilities
- BlackRock offers investment management, risk management and advisory services to institutional and retail clients worldwide and has over \$4.7tn in assets under management
- Following the transaction, FutureAdvisor will operate as a business within BlackRock Solutions ("BRS"), BlackRock's investment and risk management platform
- The transaction is expected to close in Q4 2015

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- Combines FutureAdvisor's tech-enabled advice capabilities with BRS' investment and risk management solutions
- Enables BlackRock to provide a B2B digital advice platform, which helps financial institution partners both improve their clients' investment experiences and grow advisory assets
- Empowers partners to meet the growing demand among consumers to engage with technology to gain insights on their investment portfolios
  - Demand is particularly strong among the mass-affluent, who account for  $\sim$ 30% of investable assets in the U.S.

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive advisor to BlackRock
- Highlights FT Partners' continued success advising a broad range of toptier strategic investors across the financial technology landscape

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as advisor to

# **BlackRock**

in its 100% acquisition of





#### FT Partners' Recent Awards and Recognition

# **Bloomberg**

#### **Bloomberg**

- o FT Partners' Steve McLaughlin was featured on Bloomberg / Bloomberg TV
- o View the full article and watch the live TV interview



#### **M&A Advisor Awards**

- Technology Deal of the Year (2019)
- o Cross Border Deal of the Year and Corporate / Strategic Deal of the Year (2018)
- Investment Banker of the Year (2017) Steve McLaughlin, CEO & Managing Partner of FT Partners
- o Investment Banking Firm of the Year (2016) FT Partners



#### **LendIt FinTech Industry Awards 2018:**

o FT Partners wins Top Investment Bank in FinTech

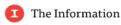






#### The FinTech Finance 40:

Steve McLaughlin ranked #1 in 2017 and 2018





### The Information's "Silicon Valley's Most Popular Dealmakers"

- o Ranked as the #2 top Technology Investment Banker by The Information subscribers (2016)
- o Only FinTech focused investment banking firm and banker on the list

### The Largest FinTech Advisory Practice in the World

