

PRESS RELEASE

NEVA SGR (INTESA SANPAOLO GROUP) INVESTS IN SUSTAINABLE U.S. AEROSPACE COMPANY, “SKYDWELLER AERO”

- **Through the Neva First investment fund, the company supports the development of the high growth potential company operating in the field of unmanned, solar-powered aircraft**
- **Technologies designed by Skydweller Aero will be used in land and maritime surveillance, environmental and infrastructure monitoring, geo-information services, telecommunications and precision navigation**

Milan, 28th September 2021 - **Neva Sgr**, Intesa Sanpaolo Group’s venture capital dedicated to the hi-tech sector, through the **Neva First** fund expands its investment portfolio and focuses on the growth of **Skydweller Aero**. The US-based start-up, founded in 2017 and with global headquarters in the USA (Oklahoma) and offices in Spain (Castille La Mancha), operates in the “Unmanned Aerial Systems” (UAS) sector with a significant load capacity.

Skydweller Aero is developing and utilizing the most advanced clean technologies, while pushing state of the art in autonomous system design. The Skydweller platform will fly and remain on station for months at time, providing satellite capabilities with the agility of an aircraft - a pseudosatellite.

Skydweller Aero will address land and maritime surveillance, environmental and infrastructure monitoring, geo-information services, telecommunications and precision navigation. Skydweller aircraft can rapidly be deployed to provide communications and other functions to support operators in emergency and disaster situations.

The sustainability criteria and the characteristic of a potential billion-dollar company led Neva Sgr to make an initial investment of approximately \$4 million in the company. An operation in continuity with the strategy of investing in companies with ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) solutions and technologies. Skydweller Aero has quickly raised investments of over \$40 million and attracted major investors and industry partners.

To date, the Neva First Fund portfolio numbers 14 investments, in addition to investments in international funds instrumental to deal flow partnerships, for a total commitment of over €60 million.

*“Skydweller Aero has developed a unique and extraordinary technology that goes in the direction of environmental sustainability”, explains **Mario Costantini**, CEO of Neva Sgr. “We believe that the company’s business can also have positive repercussions for the economy of our country in an industrial sector that has always been strategic for Italy, with excellent growth prospects. The ability to raise investment and attract investors and industry partners worldwide in a very short time confirms Skydweller Aero’s enormous potential to become a billion-dollar company.”*

*“We are honoured and delighted to share Neva Sgr.’s participation as an investor in Skydweller Aero’s cutting-edge technology,” said CEO **Dr. Robert Miller**. “We see this partnership yielding tremendous value to the global economy, transforming the government surveillance and telecommunications markets, while contributing to the maturation and growth of the clean technology industry.”*

NEVA SGR

Neva SGR, part of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group and wholly owned by Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center, plans and manages investment funds for professional investors interested in seizing the diversification and high-yield opportunities offered by venture capital investments. Neva SGR can count on Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center’s and Intesa Sanpaolo Group’s strength, financial resources, know-how and network of relationships, a unique source of value on the market. Neva SGR can watch trends and markets from a privileged position, to then take action with the force and responsibility of Italy’s leading banking group. Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center has invested in Neva First, the investment fund designed for excellent, high-tech, high-innovation start-ups harnessing trends with the potential for exponential growth. The fund mainly focuses on FinTechs and Italian companies with global growth plans or international companies that intend to develop projects with positive effects on industrial and production chains in Italy.

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About Skydweller Aero Inc.

Skydweller Aero Inc. is a cutting-edge aerospace company developing solar powered aircraft solutions capable of achieving perpetual flight with heavy, powerful payload capacity. Utilizing technology based upon the longest continuous renewably powered flight program in history, this fast-growing startup is developing a new class of unmanned aircraft, providing the persistence of geosynchronous satellites with the powerful sensing capabilities and the flexibility of a large, airborne platform.

With a flexible payload system, including communications relay, 4G/5G cellular, day/night full motion video, satellite communication, imaging radar, and more, Skydweller will enhance commercial and government telecommunication, geospatial, meteorological, and emergency operation efforts around the world, allowing customers to operate persistently in more challenging areas for longer durations, while reducing environmental impact. For more information about Skydweller, visit www.skydweller.aero.

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