



Press Release

Waveful: \$2.1M Seed round with a16z Speedrun and other investors to accelerate global expansion

With over 3 million downloads, the startup has achieved record results for a social platform born in Italy and has proven to be the fastest-growing company in the latest batch of Andreessen Horowitz's a16z Speedrun program

Milano/San Francisco, September 2nd 2025 – Waveful, the community platform for making friends online, announces a \$2.1 million Seed investment round, with participation from leading international funds and business angels. Key investors include a16z Speedrun, Andreessen Horowitz's program dedicated to the best consumer and gaming apps worldwide, Italian Angels for Growth (IAG), Vento Ventures, Zest, Vesper Holding, and a selected group of Italian and American angels including Andrea Ruosi, Vito Lomele, Nick Swift, Simone Cimminelli, Tommaso Tosi, Vincenzo Alagna, Omar Bertoni, Andrea D'Aietti, and Jesse Chor.

Founded in 2020 by Steven and Dennis Motta, born in 2003 and 1997 respectively, Waveful is a social platform that helps people create authentic connections through shared passions. In a world where loneliness is increasingly widespread, Waveful aims to build digital spaces for making new friends and meaningful communities.

The operation, entirely equity-based, represents an important step for the startup, which has achieved unprecedented results for a social platform born in Italy, both in market performance and capital raised.

In less than six months, Waveful has surpassed three million downloads, registering monthly growth over 200% in the past year and reaching over one million dollars in sales entirely through a B2C model. Its engagement and retention metrics place Waveful consistently in the top 10 percentile globally among social platforms, thereby consolidating its position as one of Europe's most promising consumer-tech projects.



The raised capital will be used to further strengthen presence in the United States, aiming to reach half a million American users within twelve months and to enhance the product with new AI-based features, reinforcing Waveful's positioning as a cutting-edge social platform. Concurrently, the team will be expanded with the addition of 4-6 new roles over the next three months, primarily in engineering, growth, and marketing.

During a16z's Speedrun program, Waveful stood out as the fastest-growing company and the only fully Italian startup, with its founders also being the youngest in the selected batch. Waveful confirms itself as one of the most dynamic Italian consumer startups, capable of revolutionizing how people build communities online, and is on track to solidify its positioning among the world's most relevant social platforms, not only for the size of the round but for its ability to compete internationally with scalable products fueled by technological innovation and solid, steadily growing market metrics.

"Being selected by a16z Speedrun as the only Italian company and becoming the startup with the highest growth within the program was an incredible recognition, both for the team and for the vision we have built from the start." says **Steven Motta, CEO and co-founder of Waveful**. *"This round provides us the resources to accelerate our expansion in the United States, invest in AI-first technology, and attract new talent. But above all, it represents a decisive step toward achieving the goal that drives us every day: becoming the number one community platform in the world."*

"We believe that the next generation of social apps will shift from monetizing attention to becoming creator and fan marketplaces, where creators can monetize their efforts directly. Waveful is building this future, and we're excited to support them on their journey forward" commented **Robin Guo, Investment Partner at a16z**.

Open positions at Waveful are available at this link: <https://careers.waveful.com/>



About Waveful

Waveful is the community social platform for making new friends online and sharing passions. In an increasingly connected but often isolated world, Waveful responds to the growing need for authentic human connections. Founded in 2020 by Steven and Dennis Motta, the startup has already attracted attention from leading Italian and international VC funds.

Press Contacts:

contact@waveful.com +39 366 3503949

Emilia Pezzini - Consultant - emilia@projecteleventh.com +39 338 9943420

Matilde Baraldi - Consultant - matilde@projecteleventh.com +39 331 3145682