

## PROFESSORBOB.AI, THE AI-BASED VIRTUAL TEACHING ASSISTANT, RAISES €4 MILLION FROM INNOVACOM AND INCO VENTURES

**Paris, 14 September 2022 – Innovacom, a venture capital pioneer in France, and Inco Ventures, an expert in impact investing, are acquiring a stake in ProfessorBob.ai. The start-up is developing a virtual teaching assistant that harnesses artificial intelligence to help students learn faster and more effectively. Thanks to this solution, ProfessorBob.ai aspires in particular to help lower the school drop-out rate.**

Dedicated to supporting innovative tech start-ups that stand out as trailblazers in the environmental, economic and industrial transition, Innovacom is acquiring a stake in ProfessorBob.ai through its “Avenir Numérique” fund. Fund manager Inco Ventures is also participating in this €4 million funding round, led by Expen.

Created in 2019 by François-Xavier Husherr (PhD ENS / MIT, founder of edtech companies LeLivreScolaire and Gutenberg Technology) and Samy Lahbabi (École Polytechnique) with support from the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and the Paris-Saclay Technology Transfer Acceleration Bureau, the ProfessorBob.ai DeepTech programme has developed an artificial intelligence tool based on highly innovative Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies.

The solution is able not only to teach and interact with students by asking and answering questions, but also to customise learning formats depending on the aptitudes and difficulties of each individual learner. Students thus learn more quickly and more effectively: the results of an A/B testing study centred on one of the company’s clients demonstrated that students using ProfessorBob.ai solutions learn twice as fast and exhibit significantly higher overall rates of academic success. Thanks to this innovation, the start-up aims to fight against early school leaving.

Hosted by the École Polytechnique, ProfessorBob.ai is rolling out several complementary SaaS solutions among academic institutions and training providers in France and abroad, including the French National Distance Learning Centre (CNED), Apprentice training centres in the automotive sector (in partnership with the French National Automotive Training Association - ANFA), as well as Arizona State University, with the aim of enhancing learning effectiveness:

- A Knowledge Assistant available 24/7 to offer relevant answers to more than 80% of students’ questions.
- Adaptive Learning: ProfessorBob.ai adapts students’ learning pathways to ensure that each student can learn at his or her own pace, focussing efforts on concepts that have yet to be mastered.
- Knowledge Anchoring: ProfessorBob.ai sends each student quizzes at regular intervals (time-based repetition) to ensure lasting consolidation of previously acquired knowledge.
- AI generation of activities and exercises: ProfessorBob.ai technology makes it possible to transform any type of textbook or course document into knowledge trees, as well as thousands of fill-in-the-blank activities, multiple choice questions and other exercises.

*“Education will have to progress more in the coming decade than in all of the past century. Thanks to AI, knowledge modelling and customization of learning pathways, we aim to support the digital revolution in education while making equitable, inclusive and high-quality education available to all,”* said François-Xavier Husherr, co-founder and CEO of ProfessorBob.ai

*“The service developed by ProfessorBob.ai teams offers an unprecedented opportunity to adapt teaching structures to the needs of every student, regardless of the subject being taught. In this regard, digital technologies truly benefit society. That is the prime focus of our investments, side by side with disruptive technologies that contribute to the major environmental and industrial transitions of our time.*

*"We are very glad to be supporting ProfessorBob.ai in its development and the roll-out of its solution in France and the United States,"* added Alban Nénert, Innovacom Associate.

*"Pursuing a civic-minded goal of helping a million struggling learners by 2025 thanks to cutting-edge technology, ProfessorBob.ai perfectly embodies the impact-driven DeepTech company of tomorrow. We are proud and excited to be guiding this team as it sets out to conquer world of inclusive education,"* concluded Carole Cazassus, EdTech Investment Officer at Inco Ventures.

## ABOUT

### INNOVACOM

Since 1988, Innovacom has invested close to one billion euros, supported more than 300 digital startups, participated in more than 20 Initial Public Offerings and completed 150 industrial disposals.

Innovacom has contributed to several recent successes in a diverse range of sectors: electric vehicles (G<sup>2</sup>mobility), ad tech (Videoplazza), medical imaging (Olea Medical), digital customer relations (Dimelo), connectivity in trains (21Net Ltd), materials for energy transition (Exagan) or components for smartphones with the Heptagon unicorn.

Innovacom is currently supporting high-potential companies such as Acklio, AI Verse, Antaios, Aryballe, Aura Aero, Avicenna.ai, CAILabs, Cozy Cloud, Exotrail, Intersec, Iten, MicroEJ, Matrixx Software, OSO AI, Robart, Uavia, Upciti, Scintil Photonics ou SustainCERT.

Its recent association with the Turenne Group, one of France's leading independent private equity firms, has resulted in a €1,2 billion platform under management. Present in Paris and Marseille, Innovacom is a company certified by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers.

[www.innovacom.com](http://www.innovacom.com) // [@innovacomvc](https://twitter.com/innovacomvc)

### INCO VENTURES

INCO Ventures is an AMF-licensed fund manager specialised in venture capital and a pioneer in impact investing. Managing or advising more than €500M of assets, it invests in the most promising start-ups and unlisted companies shaping the new inclusive and sustainable economy.

With a portfolio featuring more than 100 impact-focused companies active in all economic sectors, INCO Ventures stands out as an indispensable player in the social economy.

INCO Ventures is a member of INCO Group, a global impact-driven organisation active on all five continents through its training and incubation activities.

### PROFESSORBOB.AI

ProfessorBob.ai harnesses artificial intelligence to help learners and teachers in the fields of education and professional training. With ProfessorBob.ai, 40% of students learn twice as fast, while memorisation rates triple for 90% of learners. The company stands out as a trailblazer in the field of NLP (Natural Language Processing). Based at the French École Polytechnique, ProfessorBob.ai works with the Paris-Saclay National Centre for Scientific Research. Clients include: *Ecole Supérieure de la Banque* (34,000 students), the French National Distance Learning Centre (120,000 students), Arizona State University (80,000 distance learners paying average yearly tuition of \$15,000), automotive training centres (in partnership with the French National Automotive Training Association, 22,000 learners in automotive maintenance programmes), etc.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Samy Lahbabi  
ProfessorBob.ai  
[samy.lahbabi@professorbob.ai](mailto:samy.lahbabi@professorbob.ai)  
+33 (0)6 30 46 60 68

Wandrille Clermontel  
Taddeo  
[wandrille.clermontel@taddeo.fr](mailto:wandrille.clermontel@taddeo.fr)  
+33 (0)6 58 53 45 91

Josépha Montana  
Innovacom (Turenne Groupe)  
[jmontana@turennecapital.com](mailto:jmontana@turennecapital.com)  
+33 (0)6 01 21 21 49