27 June 2018 Digitalisation Savings Banks Public Sector

Komuno – launch of digital platform for municipal loans

A solution that enables local authorities and capital providers to make optimum use of digital technologies in their lending activities

- Helaba Digital and Lucht Probst Associates to launch “Komuno” joint venture
- Digital platform connects local authorities and banks in the arrangement of municipal loans and considerably facilitates tendering process

Helaba Digital GmbH, the investment company of Helaba Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen, and Lucht Probst Associates (LPA), are setting up a joint venture called “Komuno”. Together, they have developed a solution that enables local authorities and capital providers to make optimum use of digital technologies in their lending activities. The “Komuno” digital platform, which will allow banks to bid for municipal loan tenders, will be available from 3 September 2018.

By combining its longstanding experience in the local government sector as well as in financial markets, Helaba has collaborated with LPA in creating a highly specialised platform that is tailored to the requirements of the public sector: Komuno is a secure, web-based solution that does not depend on a specific location and contains the infrastructure of a digital marketplace. This is where supply and demand meet and are brought together in a way that is ideally suited to the needs of both sides. Komuno enables the tendering process for long-term investment loans and short-term cash advances to be considerably simplified using the individually customisable workflow system. Depending on their specific needs, local authorities themselves can choose which investors they would like to approach; and, if preferred, in a variety of different ways. The range of services available on the platform includes new loans, prolongations of existing loans, short-term liquidity lines and long-term fixed-interest finance. Thanks to the availability of municipal budget figures, budgetary documentation or information about overall debt levels, investors are able to make rapid, informed decisions with minimal effort.

“For us, Komuno is a further building block in our digital agenda towards establishing a catalogue of digital products and services for our clients”, commented Thomas Groß, the Vice-Chairman of Helaba’s Board of Managing Directors.

“We are convinced that local authorities and banks are ready to transition to new media. In Helaba and the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe, we have found the best possible partners for this venture”, added Stefan Lucht, founder and managing director of LPA.

»Our ranking of the major European financial centers remains essentially the same: London, followed by Frankfurt, followed by Paris«

Ulrike Bischoff
Financial Center Expert at Helaba

The founders

Helaba Digital

Helaba Digital GmbH is an investment company owned by Helaba Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen that focuses on innovative companies that are the driving forces behind the issue of digital transformation in the areas of financial services (Fintechs), regulation (Regtechs) and the real estate sector (Proptechs). This leads to investments that actively complement the Helaba Group's business model and optimise the bank's core processes.

LPA

LPA is a financial service provider with a particular focus on capital market activities, offering strategic advice, management and implementation services as well as a broad suite of software to optimise processes and regulatory compliance.
In addition to a global network of locations, the company, which was established in 1999, employs 200 people at its head office in Frankfurt am Main. In co-operation with the DSV Group, a provider of digital and analogue media products for the German savings banks sector, LPA has also been responsible for the development of the municipal debt management system "S-Kompass".

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