Press release

SOOURCE RAISES EUR 3 MILLION FOR ITS DATA INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM FOR ADVANCED PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

> **The startup founded by Olympian Maicol Verzotto and Nazareno Mario Ciccarello closes a seed round led by Vertis, bringing the total raised since 2025 to more than EUR 5 million.**
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> **The round also includes 360 Capital, which led the pre-seed round, Tenity and Club degli Investitori.**
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> **Verzotto: "Corporate procurement needs to work with data: we make it accessible and build AI agents on top of it"**

Milan, 17 June 2026 - Soource, the startup founded in 2024 in Bolzano by Olympian and European diving champion Maicol Verzotto, together with Nazareno Mario Ciccarello, Silvia Chiarot, Serena Galli and Luca Taddeo, has announced the closing of a EUR 3 million seed investment round. The transaction was led by Vertis, through the "Vertis Venture 5 Scaleup" fund, and saw the participation of Swiss venture capital operator Tenity, 360 Capital - which, through the 360 Digitaly fund, had led the previous round closed in January 2025 - and Club degli Investitori. With this round, Soource's total fundraising has exceeded EUR 5 million since 2025.

Soource will use the resources raised in this round to consolidate its position in Italy's procurement intelligence market and support its expansion into the main European markets.

The problem: AI is powerful, but it delivers reliable results only when it works on clean, complete data. In procurement, supplier data is often fragmented, incomplete or unverified.
The solution: Soource (www.soource.com) is the platform that brings order to this data and builds automation on top of it. A single platform to search, enrich, automate and monitor every piece of supplier information.
How it works: at its core is a proprietary international database containing verified and certified data. On top of this operates an AI system composed of multiple specialized agents, each dedicated to a different procurement-office process: finding suppliers (discovery), qualifying them, comparing them, contacting them (outreach) and completing their data (enrichment). Activities that currently require hours of manual work become automated.
The result: procurement evolves from a "copilot" model, in which AI supports operators, to an "autopilot" model, in which numerous activities are executed automatically while keeping reliable, verified data at the center of the decision-making process.

Just over a year after entering the market, Soource is one of the fastest-growing enterprise AI solutions in Italy. The platform is already used by leading groups operating in the utilities, pharmaceutical, energy, insurance, food, industrial and construction sectors. The startup, whose 17-person team operates from its headquarters at the NOI Techpark in Bolzano, expects to double its headcount by the end of 2027.

The co-founders - A graduate in Economics and Management from the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, **Maicol Verzotto** was European diving champion, a world medalist, an Olympian at Rio 2016 and captain of the Italian national diving team. Maicol was also co-founder and CEO of Functional, which under his leadership grew exponentially, generating more than EUR 9 million in revenue from scratch in just three years and raising more than EUR 2 million in capital. **Nazareno Mario Ciccarello** holds a degree in Political Science from LUISS Guido Carli and an MBA from IE Business School. He has gained solid experience in the healthcare and banking sectors. He is a visiting professor of entrepreneurship at IE Business School.

"This round represents a fundamental step in Soource's growth journey, comments **Maicol Verzotto, CEO and co-founder of Soource**. *One year after go-to-market, we are working with leading enterprises across every category and industry. The new resources will allow us to accelerate the development of our data-driven platform, strengthen the team and consolidate our leadership in Italy, with the goal of bringing Soource to the main European markets as well".*

*"Thanks to this investment round, Soource is accelerating a paradigm shift: by integrating advanced intelligence on suppliers and the market, it transforms procurement from a merely reactive function into a **predictive capability**, enabling faster, better-informed and strategically oriented decisions",* said **Nazareno Mario Ciccarello, co-founder of Soource.**

"Artificial intelligence is transforming procurement, but the real competitive advantage lies in the quality and structuring of the data on which algorithms operate. Soource has developed a proprietary infrastructure that enables companies to make supplier management more efficient and strategic, automating high-operational-intensity activities and supporting increasingly data-driven decision-making processes. In just over a year, the team has demonstrated remarkable execution capabilities, winning top-tier clients and developing a platform with strong international scalability potential. We are excited to support Maicol, Nazareno and the entire team in this new phase of growth", said **Alessandro Pontari**, **Partner of the "Vertis Venture 5 Scaleup" fund managed by Vertis SGR**.

"We are proud to support Soource on its innovation journey in a procurement sector that is still under-digitalized. The team has demonstrated outstanding commercial execution, identifying solid market demand and outlining a clear strategy to evolve supplier search into an advanced vendor intelligence system for large industrial groups", comments **Guillermo Forteza, Investment Lead Europe (INC II) at Tenity.**

Lucrezia Lucotti, Partner at 360 Capital, comments: "*We are happy to continue supporting Soource on its growth journey. Since our first investment, the company has earned the trust of large corporate groups and is becoming a benchmark for supplier intelligence in the Italian market".*

About Soource

Founded in 2024 by Maicol Verzotto, Nazareno Mario Ciccarello, Silvia Chiarot, Serena Galli and Luca Taddeo, Soource is a technology platform that, starting from a solid proprietary data infrastructure, uses artificial intelligence to help companies increase the effectiveness and efficiency of procurement processes, leaving higher-value activities in the hands of operators.

About Vertis SGR

Vertis is an independent asset management company, with offices in Naples and Milan, operating through nine closed-end investment funds reserved for qualified investors: two private equity funds ("Vertis Capital" and "Vertis Capital Parallel") and seven venture capital funds. Among these, the "Vertis Venture 5 Scaleup" fund is dedicated to supporting the best innovative Italian startups and scaleups that have completed the technological development phase and are ready to consolidate and accelerate their commercial growth in Italy and abroad. During its activity, Vertis has invested in numerous innovative Italian companies, including Fitprime, Entando, Radical Storage (formerly Bagbnb), Starting Finance, Coverzen, nCore HR, Live Story and Ogyre.