

# Stealth Startup CommonGround Raises \$19M To Develop Collaboration That's Better Than Face to Face

*Early Oculus VR Investor Matrix Partners, along with Grove Ventures and StageOne Ventures back secretive startup based in Silicon Valley and Israel*

Los Altos and Tel Aviv (December 29, 2020) — [CommonGround](#) announced it has raised \$19M led by Matrix Partners, with participation from Grove Ventures and StageOne Ventures to build a new way for people to collaborate.

Led by a team of successful entrepreneurs with three IPOs between them and expertise in computer vision, 3D graphics, AI, deep learning, and real-time video compression, the company will use the capital to fill key roles in engineering, R&D, and cloud architecture. The firm is bringing its advanced visual technology to businesses of all sizes to improve human interaction over digital, enhance trust, increase productivity, and build stronger relationships.

Virtual meetings are a permanent fixture of professional life. But despite their ubiquity, none capture the richness of in-person meetings, where non-verbal cues like body language and eye contact are essential to how we communicate.

CommonGround was founded by serial entrepreneurs Amir Bassan-Eskenazi and Ran Oz who previously co-founded the video-networking platform BigBand Networks, which they took public in 2007 before it was acquired in 2011. Prior to BigBand, Oz co-founded digital compression technology company Optibase, where Bassan-Eskenazi served as its COO leading up to its IPO on the NASDAQ in 1999. Oz also co-founded VCON, the first company to introduce video conferencing over IP which IPO'd on France's Nouveau marché. Together they have founded eight companies, with 3 successful IPOs, 2 M&As and have received 2 Emmy Awards for technology.

"Amir and Ran have a bold vision to reinvent communications," said Patrick Malatack, General Partner at Matrix Partners, and formerly GM & VP of Product at Twilio. "Their technical expertise, combined with a history of successful exits, made for an easy investment decision."

"We are excited to partner with Amir, Ran and the CommonGround team, and we are positive that their rich entrepreneurial experience and deep tech savviness will allow the company to revolutionize the way people interact digitally," said Omri Green, General Partner at Grove Ventures. "There couldn't have been a better time for CommonGround's technology, as digital interactions continuously become an integral part of everyone's professional and personal life."

"The need for online collaboration software that captures and improves upon face-to-face meetings is clear," said Yuval Cohen, Founding Partner at StageOne Ventures. "We are proud to back an experienced team who StageOne have known for years."

To learn more about CommonGround, visit [CommonGround-AI.com](http://CommonGround-AI.com), or to inquire about available career opportunities please visit, <https://www.commonground-ai.com/#careers>, or email us at [careers@commonground-ai.com](mailto:careers@commonground-ai.com)

**About CommonGround**

Based in Silicon Valley and Tel Aviv, CommonGround aims to improve communications and online collaboration. Founded in 2019 by serial entrepreneurs Amir Bassan-Eskenazi and Ran Oz, the company is led by a world-class team of engineers with expertise in AI, computer vision, geometry processing, 3D graphics, and real-time video compression, and backed by leading venture capital firms Matrix Partners, Grove Ventures and StageOne Ventures. For more information about CommonGround, visit <https://www.commonground-ai.com/>.

**Media Contact:**

VSC for CommonGround

Eric Gonzalez

[ericg@vsc.co](mailto:ericg@vsc.co)

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