Revolut's Storonsky sets sights on a 'European Meta or Google' as Wave by Vento closes in Turin

Europe's VC-backed tech ecosystem reaches $4.4tn as Nik Storonsky, Sir Jony Ive, Sir Tim Berners-Lee and more than 200 speakers gather in Turin for Wave by Vento

Turin, Italy, 9 October 2026: Wave by Vento concluded today after three days at OGR Torino, bringing together 10,000 attendees and more than 200 speakers from across Europe, the US and beyond. During the event, founders, investors and global technology leaders debated the innovations, companies and ideas shaping Europe's next phase of growth.

Exor CEO John Elkann was in conversation with Revolut co-founder and CEO Nik Storonsky, designer Sir Jony Ive and The Economist Editor-in-Chief Zanny Minton Beddoes. Other speakers included inventor of the World Wide Web Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Alibaba Group Chairman Joe Tsai, DoorDash co-founder and CEO Tony Xu, Vittorio Colao, Vice Chairman of EMEA at General Atlantic and Goldman Sachs CIO Marco Argenti.

Speaking on the final day, **Nik Storonsky** outlined Revolut's global ambitions, saying he wanted to build a technology company on the scale of the biggest US tech groups while continuing to build in Europe.

"Our American dream, I mean, in this case, European dream, would be to build a global tech company similar to Meta, Google or OpenAI, but out of Europe," Storonsky said.

Bending Spoons co-founder and CEO Luca Ferrari also pushed back on the idea that access to capital remains a fundamental obstacle for European founders, arguing that strong companies can now raise at scale from Europe.

"I think if you have a great project and you're credible and persistent, you can get as much money here as almost anywhere," Ferrari said. "Complaining is not part of the solution."

Europe's next global champions

New Dealroom data presented at Wave by Vento showed European venture capital investment running at an annual $89bn pace, with 56 VC-backed companies worth more than $10bn and the combined value of Europe's VC-backed companies reaching $4.4tn. In Italy, the combined value of VC-backed companies built in the country has reached $85bn, while venture investment is running at an annualised $1.8bn pace in 2026, putting it on course to be one of the most active years on record.

Yoram Wijngaarde, founder and CEO of Dealroom.co, predicted that Europe's VC-backed technology ecosystem could overtake its traditional industrial base in value within five years and that its first trillion-dollar VC-backed company could already be at an early stage today.

"I think that the VC-backed ecosystem is going to overtake our industrial base in terms of total value created within the next five years, if we play our cards right," Wijngaarde said. "And I think that also the first trillion-dollar VC-backed company is going to be created."

Designing what comes next

Sir Jony Ive joined **John Elkann** to discuss their work together on the Ferrari Luce and what it takes to build products that are genuinely better rather than simply different. "You can make something new and different that's rubbish. That's very easy," Ive said. "It's very hard to make something that is new and different, and its newness is a consequence of it being better."

The next Wave

This year marked the evolution of Italian Tech Week into Wave by Vento, reflecting an event that has grown from an Italian technology gathering into a meeting point for founders, investors and technology leaders from across Europe and beyond. Over three days, Wave welcomed 10,000 attendees from 117 countries, bringing together more than 3,200 companies and organisations, including an investor community with 30% based outside Italy. The programme featured 142 sessions across four stages, delivering more than 77 hours of content from 255 speakers and moderators representing 215 organisations, alongside 150 side events across Turin.

Opening the event, **Vento CEO Diyala D'Aveni** said: "Wave started as a bet on Italy and has become a European one. The builders are here and the ambition is growing. The next step is to connect them to the capital, customers and communities that can help them go all the way to the top.

"The next great European companies will not be built in isolation. They will come from ecosystems where founders, investors, universities, companies and cities are connected. That is what we want to keep building here in Turin."

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About Vento

Vento is a venture capital firm backing early-stage startups with at least one Italian founder as they build globally. With its second €75M fund launched in January 2025 and

fully backed by Exor, Vento has backed 210+ companies to date, becoming Italy's most active private early-stage fund. Headquartered in Turin, Vento is chaired by John Elkann.

Beyond investing, Vento supports the ecosystem through Reef, a five-month venture-building program in Turin that brings together 40 talented individuals each year to form teams and launch new startups, and Wave (formerly Italian Tech Week), its flagship event gathering 15,000+ people annually.

For more information, visit https://vento.ventures/