

VC firm Andreessen Horowitz raises \$1.5B to invest

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(AP) -- A venture capital firm started by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Marc Andreessen has raised an additional \$1.5 billion to invest in promising technology startups.

The fundraising announced Tuesday serves as further validation of the success Andreessen has enjoyed since he became a <u>venture capitalist</u> in mid-2009. His firm, Andreessen Horowitz, has invested in about 90 privately held companies. The portfolio includes <u>social networking</u> <u>service</u> Facebook, which is expected to file plans for an initial public offering of stock as early as Wednesday.

Andreessen helped trigger the dot-com boom when he co-founded Web browser pioneer Netscape Communications in the mid-1990s. He now serves on the boards of several companies, including Facebook and Hewlett-Packard Co.

With the latest infusion, Andreessen Horowitz has now raised \$2.7 billion since the firm's inception.

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