**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Ascent Funds Congratulates Forge Nano on Its Nasdaq Listing

*Investor since 2022 and Series D co-lead in discussions on a 2027 initiative to take Atomic Armor® into more industries*

NEW YORK, November 2, 2026 — Ascent Funds today congratulated Dr. Paul Lichty and the Forge Nano team on the company's listing on the Nasdaq Global Market (NASDAQ: NANO). Trading began on October 22, 2026, after Forge Nano completed its business combination with Archimedes Tech SPAC Partners II Co. On October 28, Ascent Funds Managing Partners Mark Gordon and David Wu joined Dr. Lichty to ring the Nasdaq Opening Bell.




*Mark Gordon, Dr. Paul Lichty and David Wu at the Nasdaq Opening Bell, October 28, 2026.*

Ascent Funds first invested in 2022 through bridge financing ahead of the Series C. It then took part in the US$50 million Series C in 2023 and co-led the US$97 million Series D with RockCreek, alongside GM Ventures and Samsung SDI.

Forge Nano's Atomic Armor® technology coats materials one atomic layer at a time, and it is now at work in three industries. In energy, Forge Battery broke ground in August on a 3 GWh battery gigafactory in Morrisville, North Carolina, backed by a US$100 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. In semiconductors, Forge Nano's TEPHRA™ tools have demonstrated coatings at 1,000:1 aspect ratios, the precision needed for the 3D architectures behind next-generation memory and advanced packaging. In medicine, Forge Nano is building manufacturing equipment for Nanexa's PharmaShell®

platform. PharmaShell is designed to turn today's weekly or daily injections, including GLP-1 drugs, into monthly and potentially quarterly doses.

"We backed Forge Nano in 2022, when atomic-scale coating was still a lab technique with an industrial future," said Mark Gordon, CIO and Managing Partner of Ascent Funds. "Paul and his team turned it into a platform used in chip tools, U.S. battery cells and medicine. We're proud to have backed them at every stage."




*A Forge Nano atomic layer deposition system.*

"This listing is the start of the next chapter," said David Wu, President and Managing Partner of Ascent Funds. "We are in discussions with Forge Nano on an initiative for 2027 to open new verticals and deliver Atomic Armor into even more industries. Industry 5.0 will be built on the picks and shovels of advanced manufacturing, and atomic-scale manufacturing is one of the most important."

**About Ascent Funds**

Ascent Funds invests in energy technology and advanced manufacturing in America, partnering with companies from early financing rounds through the public markets.

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