Premium HOME > RETAIL

Grubbrr's CEO believes his company's self-ordering kiosk technology can fix restaurants' labor crisis. Read the 24slide pitch deck he used to nab \$35 million from a single investor.

Ann Gehan May 24, 2022, 12:53 PM









A rendering of a Grubbrr kiosk. GRUBBRR digital kiosk

- Grubbrr's CEO thinks the cashier is obsolete and wants to help restaurants save on labor.
- The company develops software that powers kiosks that people use to order at restaurants.
- See the pitch deck that helped the company raise \$35 million in new capital.

Sam Zietz, the CEO of Grubbrr, thinks that the restaurant cashier is becoming obsolete and that restaurants will soon go the way of banks and airports, where automated kiosks take over much of the work performed by employees.

Grubbrr, based in Boca Raton, Florida, develops software for restaurant kiosk ordering and automation systems. Its clients include Blue Bottle Coffee, BurgerFi, and Duck Donuts.

Zietz said that while he thinks the industry shift to self-serve kiosks should have happened 10 to 15 years ago, plentiful access to lowwage labor meant restaurants didn't need to innovate.

"They had so much access to low-wage workers, they said, 'Why would we invest in technology when we can throw cheap labor at the problem?"" Zietz told Insider.

In 2017, the Grubbrr team decided to invest in developing its kiosk

technology, hoping to be the first mover by the time Zietz's theory played out.

Then two events occurred that <u>made kiosks and other automation</u> <u>devices more appealing</u> to restaurants and franchisees. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a boom in interest in gig-economy jobs, and lawmakers implemented a \$15 minimum wage for workers in some states and <u>for federal contractors</u>. While the federal minimum wage is still \$7.25, Zietz said the opportunity for many workers to earn more money had made it more difficult for restaurants to find employees.

"We used to say, 'We reduce labor costs. We save you on op ex,'" or operating expenses, Zietz said. "Now we say we solve labor. This labor is not coming back — and if it doesn't come back, you need a solution, and the only solution is automation."



Sam Zietz is the CEO of Grubbrr, a restaurant-tech firm. Grubbrr

Some locations of chains like $\underline{\text{McDonald's}}$ and $\underline{\text{Panera}}$ have had kiosk tech designed by other firms for years.

For Grubbrr, restaurant automation extends beyond kiosks to include digital menu boards that reflect real-time item availability; online ordering; QR codes; and back-end management software.

Grubbrr's kiosks and software are designed to integrate into a restaurant's point-of-sale or order-management system. It counts several point-of-sale-tech companies, including Square and PAR, as strategic partners.

The company says kiosks can also help increase revenue by upselling customers based on the items they've ordered.

"By being able to customize that upsell to something that resonates and provides value to the consumer in a manner that's not intrusive, where they're having the freedom of making that decision, all of a sudden people start ordering a lot more," Zietz said.

Zietz said he hopes to leverage Grubbrr's recent partnership with Samsung, which has developed kiosk hardware, to help Grubbrr develop global reach.

He said Samsung had been looking for a software solution to pair with its kiosks when its team was introduced to Grubbrr, adding that Samsung's reps told Zietz that Grubbrr's software would accelerate its go-to-market timeline by two years. The companies announced the partnership last June.

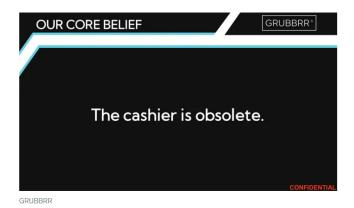
Grubbrr last month announced \$35 million in new capital, raised through an intellectual-property-based funding agreement with Aon, a consulting firm. It said it would use the funding to help increase its headcount.

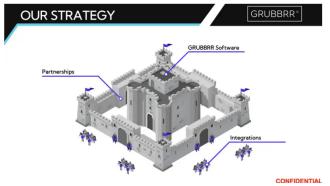
Grubbrr has about 200 employees and about 50 open developer roles. The company's job listings also include project managers and customer-service managers.

See the 24 slides that helped Grubbrr raise \$35 million below.

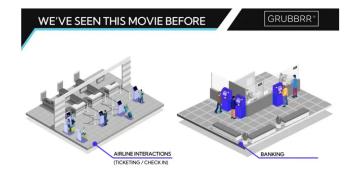


GRUBBRR





GRUBBRR







GRUBBRR's Strategic Partership with Samsung Ensures Access to Supply

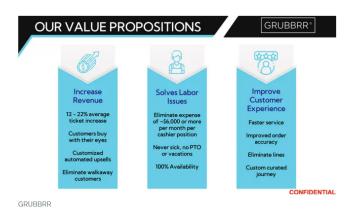


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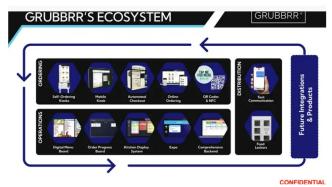
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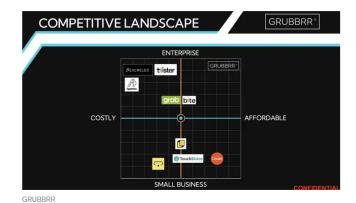




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PAR

Square





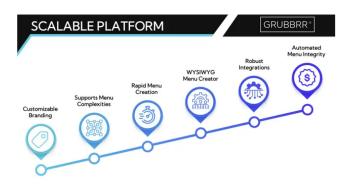


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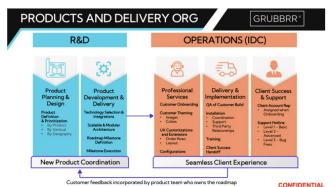




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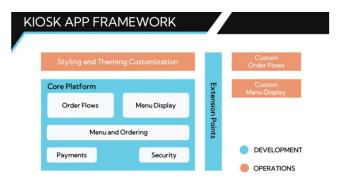


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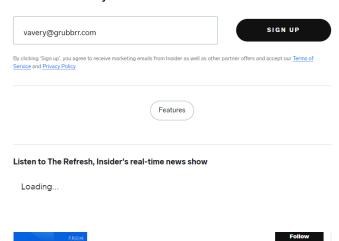
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