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NEWS RELEASE

CHINA'S CSC GROUP INVESTS IN UK'S FOUNDERS FACTORY TO BECOME EXCLUSIVE AI PARTNER

- Multimillion pound deal will 'build bridge' between UK and China giving access to top AI talent
- First deal of its kind in Europe for CSC Group, ranked by Forbes as China's Best Private Equity Institution, with assets worth over \$12 billion

LONDON & BEIJING: [Founders Factory](#), the corporate backed, multi-sector accelerator and incubator created by Brent Hoberman, Henry Lane Fox and Jim Meyerle, today confirmed [CSC Group](#), one of China's leading private equity firms, as its exclusive AI partner.

As part of the five-year deal CSC Group will be making a multimillion pound investment into Founders Factory and together they will invest in and scale five early stage startups and co-create from scratch two new companies each year. The partnership will build a bridge between AI talent in Europe and China; giving Founders Factory startups access to the Chinese market and Chinese talent the opportunity to enter the European tech ecosystem.

The in-house team of experts at Founders Factory, many of whom are successful entrepreneurs themselves, will provide hands-on support and advice to participating startups, as well as working with CSC Group to jointly build and launch new AI products and services.

Dania Zhou, CSC Group Senior Managing Director and CSC Union Co-Founder, said:

"This is just the beginning of a long term relationship with Founders Factory; a relationship that will give us access to the best European talent through its unique model backed by other large corporate partners. The founding team has a great track record at building businesses; something we now want to do together with a focus on artificial intelligence."

J. William Kim, CSC Group Managing Director and CSC Union Senior Partner, said:

"This is not just a capital investment, this is a strategic partnership to build a bridge and help great founders access China. We believe London remains a key global centre for tech innovation and AI research and is an attractive location for startups across Europe."

Brent Hoberman, Founders Factory Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, said:

"This deal is significant because it extends the reach of Founders Factory into one of the most coveted, yet hard to access markets on the planet, whilst proving that the UK is recognised globally as a centre of excellence for AI."

"AI will impact all sectors built upon large data sets ranging from health and insurance, commerce and finance, even beauty and media and we are uniquely positioned to leverage that trend and attract the brightest talent."

"By welcoming such a prestigious technology investor into Founders Factory, we continue to strengthen our offering to startups partnering them with some of the world's leading brands, in almost all global markets."

Committed to being at the heart of the growing European tech ecosystem, Founders Factory will develop 200 early stage technology companies over the next five years across six sectors. The CSC Group represents the company's fifth sector partnership having launched its first sector, education, in June 2015 with investment from [Holtzbrinck Publishing Group](#) (whose



subsidiaries include Macmillan Publishers); [Guardian Media Group](#) for media in January 2016; [Aviva](#) for fintech and [L'Oreal](#) for beauty tech both in early summer this year.

The partnership with Founders Factory supports CSC Group's commitment to being at the forefront of technology innovation into US early stage technology businesses as part of its \$400M commitment to AngelList.

CSC Group will also be part of the Founders Factory Board of Directors and represented by CSC Union Co-Founder and General Partner, Dania Zhou.

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About Founders Factory

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Positioned at the very heart of the global tech community and benefiting from its strong links to [Founders Forum](#), Founders Factory is a new model in business creation with extraordinary ambition and breadth. Together with our blue chip corporate partners we invest capital and resources and will build and scale 200 early stage technology companies across multiple sectors.

Founders Factory launched its first sector, Education, in June 2015 with investment from Holtzbrinck Publishing Group and its second sector, Media, with backing from Guardian Media Group (GMG) in January 2016, L'Oreal became Beauty partner in May 2016 and Aviva in June this year.

Some of the startups Founders Factory has worked with so far include:

- [Vidsy](#): Self-serve platform for brands to commission and distribute video content from a community of 1,500 film-makers. Founders Factory supported Vidsy's transition from an agency model to a marketplace and in six months revenue has quadrupled, with the company now working with a number of international FMCG brands and Founders Factory partners L'Oreal and The Guardian's editorial team.
- [Flourish](#): Allows brands to connect multiple live data feeds and create complex data visualisations. Whilst at Founders Factory, Flourish also adapted their agency proposition into a powerful self-serve platform (launching in October 2016), was presented to global tech leaders at Founders Forum London and subsequently raised \$1m in seed funding. Flourish is now working on briefs with a number of international media and financial companies.
- [Lightneer](#): Finnish learning games studio based in Helsinki, from the team behind Angry Birds (Rovio). Lightneer is set to launch its first learning game, Big Bang Legends in early 2017 and in the past six months has completed a €2.8 million (\$3.16 million) financing round bringing the total investment into Lightneer to €3.5 million (\$3.94 million).

www.foundersfactory.com
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About CSC Group

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- CSC values technology innovations and the talents behind them.–CSC currently collaborates with PBC School of Finance of Tsinghua University, Xiamen University, Tianjin University, Harbin Institute of Technology, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Central China Normal University, NanChang Univerisity, Xinjiang University, Tomsk Polytechnic University, and many other prestigious institutions. The purpose of these collaborations is to create an integrated system to incubate and accelerate startups and build an entrepreneurship workspace. Through “Innovation & Entrepreneurship+”, achieving Industry-University Research integration. A number of innovation-focused programs under CSC’s initiative are fostering innovation culture and developing new technologies in universities within and beyond China.
- CSC Group is one of China’s leading private equity management firms. Forbes China ranked CSC Group as the TOP 5 PE institutions consecutively from 2012-2015. CSC is playing a leading and influential role in China’s PE industry, and one of the public duties is Co-chairman of China Venture Capital Association (CVCA).
- Assets Under Management (AUM) over ¥80billion RMB (\$12billion USD); CSC Group was listed on the NEEQ board on March 2015. Within 6 months, CSC Group has completed private placements of approx. ¥12billion RMB (\$1.7billion USD). CSC Group has net assets of approx. ¥15.5billion RMB (\$2.4 billion USD) on 31st December 2015.
- CSC Group has invested in around 400 companies and has successfully exited more than 70 companies; of which, CSC Group exited 40 companies through IPO with an overall IRR of 27.23%.
- Investment stages covers: Start-ups, VC stage, PE stage, M&As, IPOs.
- CSC Group focuses on emerging industries such as the following: High-Tech (Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence), Consumption, Entertainment, Biomedicine, High-Tech manufacturing, Modern agriculture, Fin-tech, Ed-Tech, IOT, etc...
- CSC Union, a subsidiary of CSC Group, is responsible for CSC Group’s global incubator and accelerator business strategy.
- CSC Union in addition is tasked with the network building with global partners. This includes the establishment of strategic partnerships, direct investment, creation of China based joint ventures with renowned incubators/ accelerators, and the building a professional investment platform to integrate Chinese dynamics with global resources.

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