

## **TOP GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHER INVESTS IN FOUNDERS FACTORY**

- **Innovative corporate-backed incubator and accelerator will deliver custom innovation and de-risk early stage investing for major player in media education.**

**London, (June 12, 2015)** – **The Founders Factory**, a combined incubator and accelerator committed to expanding the European tech ecosystem, announces an investment by Holzbrink Publishing this week. News of the investment was delivered by Holzbrink at the annual CEO’s breakfast for Founders Forum, arguably the most elite and established tech network in the world today and foundational to The Founders Factory model.

Stefan von Holtzbrinck, Holzbrink CEO later said “We invested in the Founders Factory because we know that access to their global network and their unique approach to business acceleration and incubation will become the new standard for developing early stage technologies. We feel the team leading this effort will put us on the leading edge and help us to disrupt our own business model.” Founders Factory co-founder and Chairman Brent Hoberman said “We’re thrilled to be working with Holtzbrinck as we look to bridge the gap between entrepreneurs and corporates. We will be supporting their innovation by identifying and elevating some of the smartest and most exciting early stage initiatives in their sector.”

Founders Factory is an ambitious approach to early stage innovation and investing. It is born out of a decade building the most elite network of entrepreneurs, corporates, investors and subject matter experts in Europe. With roots planted firmly in deep operational competence and a “founders first” mentality, it seeks to deliver a methodology that mirrors exactly what the team’s founders believe they could have used in the early years of launching and growing their own successful companies; neatly summed up by Hoberman as “The funding to operate, the freedom to innovate and the execution support to overcome critical hurdles, all surrounded by a huge network of potential partners, investors and clients.”

The Founders Factory is perfectly positioned between corporate investors in need of a custom approach to sector based innovation on one side and the largest community of European tech founders on the other. With this reach and access to both capital and talent, it’s easy to believe that they will meet their goal of helping build a European tech ecosystem to rival what we see in Silicon Valley. Jim Meyerle, co-founder and Managing Director says “We already attract the world’s most talented founders, and now we can put resources and capital behind the next generation, drastically increasing their potential for success and in doing so bringing some transformative technologies to market.”

ENDS.

### About Holtzbrinck

Holtzbrinck Publishing Group ([www.holtzbrinck.com](http://www.holtzbrinck.com)) is a second-generation family-owned publishing group, founded by George von Holtzbrinck. Now a global media company, it consists of Macmillan Science and Education, Macmillan Publishers (fiction and non-fiction trade books in English and German language) and Holtzbrinck Digital, Information and Services (internet companies, news media and services).

Macmillan Science and Education ([www.learndiscover.com](http://www.learndiscover.com)) houses brands that date back to 1843 (Macmillan), 1845 (Scientific American) and 1869 (Nature). It has more than 5,700 employees in more than 50 markets and supplies high-quality content and innovative digital products and services to customers in 120 countries around the world. It unites all Macmillan's science, scholarly and education businesses across the globe.

### About Founders Factory

Founders Factory is an accelerator and incubator based out of London and lead by the Co-founder and Chairman of Founders Forum. Launched in 2014, it seeks to build an ecosystem that supports authentic innovation informed by large corporates in need of new technologies.

Affiliated with the Founders Forum, the team has invested a decade in building the most elite network of entrepreneurs in Europe, arguably in the world. They have learned how to harness the incredible energy in that network and deliver critical insights and consulting to some of the world's largest and most profitable companies. The Founders Factory serves as a bridge to connect corporates in need of entrepreneurial talent and innovation on one side, and the incredibly rich, but risky world of technology startups and innovation on the other.

As part of the investment model, the Founders Factory provides entrepreneurs access to 100% committed experts and operating teams that drive businesses success in areas including product strategy, development, strategic marketing, user experience, business development, growth marketing, fundraising and human resources.