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FORGET SICILONE VALLEY BECAUSE IF CATENA CAPITAL HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, BERLIN IS THE NAME ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

As one of the fastest growing start-up ecosystems in the world (*Global Start-up Ecosystem Ranking, 2015*), Berlin represents the epitome of growth and acceleration with a new start-up sprouting every 20 minutes. That means a new and groundbreaking business venture emerging faster than you can say Bitcoin, in a city that is expected to become Europe's number one start-up hub by 2020, surpassing the likes of London. If current trends continue, Berlin's flourishing start-up network is expected to create an additional 100,000 jobs in the next two years.

Creating the backbone and support system for this accelerated growth are a growing number of incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces and angel investors. Leading the cohort is **Catena Capital**, Germany's #1 Blockchain Venture Builder, Fund and ICO Accelerator. Co-founded by Partner **Michael Ambros** and Founding Investor **Gunther Schmidt**, Catena Capital is one of Berlin's leading venture builders and crypto-investors. Backed by some of Germany's most prolific and successful entrepreneurs, Catena is swiftly shaping up as a pillar in one of the most exciting ecosystems in the world. And like all good success stories, Catena are choosing to invest in the kind of vision, tenacity and hunger that helped put Berlin on the map!

Having founded some of the most exciting start-ups to come out of Germany, **Ambros** and **Schmidt** are a dynamic-duo bringing with them a wealth of entrepreneurial knowledge and expertise.

Aspiring, determined and an innate entrepreneur, **Michael Ambros** is the tech visionary who helped develop an SMS platform, which allowed students to send free messages in 2005. Becoming one of the most far-reaching and successful telecommunication portals in Germany, Ambros utilized this growth to fund several more start-ups with all roads eventually leading to yet another successful venture; Catena Capital.

Gunter Schmidt, the ideas man behind the duo, brings with him a thirst and desire to discover the latest visionary whose drive matches his continued focus for growth and expansion. This start-up powerhouse are known as “Medici”, who also co-founded eKomi in early 2008. Together, they have helped create a truly modern-day incubator, set to house some of the most exciting start-ups to come out of Berlin. With ‘big picture dreams and visions’ at the forefront of their agenda, the two angel investors look to aspirational emerging entrepreneurs with grand ideas. Thus offering a welcome and fresh alternative to traditional investors who play largely at a numbers game.

Within this same ethos and framework, Catena offers Cryptotank, in which they fund, incubate and accelerate ICOs. Unlike most investors and incubation systems which focus on stats and numbers, Catena focus on business owners who dare to imagine a world based on decentralized systems. Originally developed as an accounting method for virtual currency Bitcoin, blockchains are visible in a number of commercial settings today. Working as a massive digital spreadsheet, shared by all members of a decentralized network, investing in start-ups built on blockchain technology is swiftly gaining traction and Catena are playing their part in leading the trend.

With 2017 a breakout year for cryptocurrencies and assets, Bitcoin took the headlines as a game changer highlighting the growth of this new trend. With a value growth of more than 1000%, Bitcoin surprisingly only came in 14th place based on performance, behind the likes of Ripple, NEM, Stellar and a cohort of others. What does this mean? It means that the time for Cryptocurrencies has well and truly arrived and is not merely a fleeting trend. Within the Catena framework, German start-up and Catena partner, **Herdius**, is revolutionising the cryptocurrency world

through the development of an exciting new blockchain market. It's a time of true expansion for young entrepreneurs looking to be noticed and supported!

With geography and a longstanding history of foreign influence on its side, bridging the West and East, the North and South, Berlin's thriving start-up ecosystem is attracting more than 44% of foreign investment, enticing diverse talent from around the world. And whilst software and app start-ups lead the trend, Berlin's lively and diverse start-up scene includes anything from advanced technology, biotech, new media to food, arts and culture. One only needs to spend a day in Berlin to experience some of the most exciting new restaurants, businesses and hubs in the world!

Whilst Ambros and Schmidt offer a wealth of expertise within the online sphere, they are looking to revolutionary investment and accelerator programs by offering an all-inclusive framework. Catena Capital, in this sense, is not just an exciting opportunity for a specific area of entrepreneurs, no; on the contrary and against the grain of many incubator platforms, Catena is open to entrepreneurs across varied fields in tech; a true reflection of Berlin's vibrant and diverse start-up scene! The only requirement, which is non-negotiable, is that applicants can dream as big and persist as long as Michael and Gunter – because vision and drive are the key catalysts!

--ENDS

Notes to the Editor

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Interview opportunities with Founders, **Michael Ambros** and **Gunther Schmidt** are available upon request

VISUAL ASSETS

All visual assets including high-resolution imagery are available upon request.

PUBLICITY ENQUIRIES AND FURTHER COMMENTARY

Please direct all enquiries relating to this story to Media Advisor, **Marina Mara** on **+61 403 324 306** or by emailing hello@marinamara.com

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