

Both projects have signed an agreement to increase the engagement of accelerators within Europe

OPENAXEL AND ACCELERATOR ASSEMBLY PARTNER TO FOSTER COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN ACCELERATORS

- **OpenAxel and Accelerator Assembly create a community of European accelerators that will increase cross border business opportunities for entrepreneurs**
- **The accelerators in the network will have the possibility to nominate startups from their portfolio to take part in the Second OpenAxel Contest, to be launched in September**

21st July 2015 - Madrid/ Brussels. OpenAxel and Accelerator Assembly, projects funded by the European Commission, will join efforts to boost the European accelerator ecosystem and increase cross border opportunities for entrepreneurs.

This collaboration covers different lines of action: mutual presence in events, sharing networks of accelerators and giving visibility to the different acceleration opportunities they offer, including the OpenAxel contest. OpenAxel will also be launching the first European map of accelerators providing increased visibility to Accelerator Assembly's members. This map will be the access point for European entrepreneurs to the top acceleration programmes available in Europe. "Both projects were launched with the same mission, to create a unified European acceleration market to support in the creation of internationally competitive European startups and SMEs. This agreement is an important step to reach this ambitious goal" said Agustin Moro, Head of Partnerships of Telefonica Open Future and OpenAxel coordinator.

The first milestone of this collaboration was the celebration on 2 July of the Accelerator Assembly event in Wayra UK premises in London, with representatives from almost 200 accelerators, policy figures, investors and other entrepreneurial organisations. The next event, Accelerator Assembly Annual Conference, will take place in Salamanca, Spain, under Startup OLE (<http://startupole.eu/>).

Through the OpenAxel and Accelerator Assembly community, accelerators will be able to nominate startups from their portfolios to take part in the Second OpenAxel Contest, to be launched in September. The nine best startups will win a 'Hi Potential' boot camp and immersion week in Silicon Valley meeting investors and corporations. Other prizes include perks from technological partners valued at more than €100k per startup, personalised coaching plans from executives and top tier mentors, presence in the events with highest impact in Europe, access to the best network of partners and to corporations and accelerators from all around Europe.



About Accelerator Assembly: Accelerator Assembly is a network created under Startup Europe – funded by the European Commission and delivered by BISITE Accelerator, an accelerator based in the Scientific Park of University of Salamanca, Spain. It gathers a EU-wide accelerators community to share knowledge and best practices, disseminate accelerator models amongst stakeholders and strengthen communication between EU institutions and startup communities across Europe. www.acceleratorassembly.eu/

About OpenAxel: OpenAxel is an EU initiative that aims to map all the European acceleration services providers that can help emerging startups and SMEs in Europe. Additionally, OpenAxel will work in bridging the gap between industry and entrepreneurs, connecting emerging talent with business partners and digital corporations. On top of this, the top 18 European startups will be selected through two contests and will be awarded with a wide range of prizes that will boost their status. www.openaxel.com