TECH SCOTLAND ADVOCATES COMPLETES FORMATION OF FIRST ADVISORY BOARD

The private sector-led technology network has appointed an Advisory Board to set content, balance and priorities as it endeavours to secure Scotland's position as a leading global tech hub

Tech Scotland Advocates (TSA) brings together some of the most respected, successful and influential figures from the country's technology sector to help start-ups, scale-ups and tech leaders address the opportunities and challenges of starting and growing a tech business in Scotland

The next Tech Scotland Advocates event under the stewardship of the Advisory Board will be staged in Glasgow on 24 July 2019 and will address the dual themes of Scaling and Internationalising Scotland's technology companies – featuring international business leaders from Scotland, Silicon Valley and Singapore.

GLASGOW – 7th June 2019 – Tech Scotland Advocates (TSA), the private sector-led network connecting tech hubs around the world, has appointed an Advisory Board to help champion the growth of the Scottish tech sector. TSA was founded at the end of 2018 and operates in a golden marketplace for entrepreneurialism, innovation, creativity and investment. Its members practice their craft in a broad range of business sectors throughout Scotland. Advocates range from board level representatives with the largest institutions to partners and directors of boutique enterprises and expert technology practitioners.

The tech sector across Scotland has grown rapidly in recent years, with the latest figures from Tech Nation showing digital businesses in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee having a combined turnover of £3.8bn with more than 58,000 employed in new collar tech jobs. Scotland is also home to two of the UK's 26 billion-dollar tech companies.

The Tech Scotland Advocates Advisory Board will convene regularly to guide the organisation's efforts to create a support network for the country's business leaders, entrepreneurs and experts. The founding Advisory Board members are: **Amy Burnett** – Growth Manager (Scotland), KPMG, **Ross Methven** – Founder, 11:FS, **Brian Baglow** – Commercial Director, CodeClan, **Kirsty Mackenzie** – Founder, iMultiply Group, **Davd Millar** – Director, The OGTC, **John McKinlay** – Partner & Head of the UK IP and Technology Practice, DLA Piper, **Janice Cuningham** – Entrepreneur Development, Royal Bank of Scotland, **Yvonne Dunn** – Partner & Head of the FinTech Practice, Pinsent Masons, **Jordan Maguire** – `Inventor & Director, Gizmo Packaging, **John McLaren-Stewart** – Founder, Venture Risks, **Lynsey Campbell** – Exec Director JP Morgan, **Olivia Gambelin** – Founder, Ethical Intelligence, **Neil Mackenzie** – Fellow CIPS, **Garry Bernstein** – Chief Executive Technology Leaders & Founder Tech Scotland Advocates

The TSA Advisory Board will address the critical challenges facing the country's tech industry, such as access to talent, access to capital and the creation of a dynamic operating environment where companies can scale with ease, to take advantage of business opportunities in national and global markets.

Tech Scotland Advocates was founded by Garry Bernstein, who also acts as Chair of the Advisory Board. Garry is an executive director with a portfolio in UK and international markets, including IPO and trade exits with technology enterprises. TSA is part of the Global Tech Advocates network which has over 10,000 members worldwide – Europe, Americas and Asia Pacific regions.

Garry Bernstein comments, "Scotland's tech ecosystem punches well above its weight on the world stage. I'm genuinely excited by the opportunity to work with such a brilliantly talented and diverse group of business leaders. We are all committed to boosting Scotland's business performance and strengthening the country's reputation as a leading global tech hub. Members of the Advisory Board bring bags of wisdom, powerful insights, observations and their professional expertise to represent the many voices and differing needs of our talented tech community – entrepreneurship, finance, legal, technology innovation, skills development and enterprise growth. Scotland has immense tech leadership potential and the Advisory Board will ensure our activities, events and resources are used as a galvanising force for everyone invested in the future success of our tech sector."

Yvonne Dunn comments, "I'm delighted to join the TSA Advisory Board. Technology is fundamental to all business sectors: it is a huge contributor to business change and to improving products and services. Scotland can be at the heart of the positive change that technology offers - it has all the ingredients for success. All we need to do is put them together."

John McLaren-Steward said, ""There is a stunning, dynamic and very exciting tech sector in Scotland. The true way to help those companies with growth and internationalisation is to have an infrastructure that creates an eco-system of professional support, information, story sharing, collaboration and mutually beneficial introductions.

We all know that the tech world is a real business battleground and Scotland's entrepreneurs are fighting it out with the world's best. They must have continuing help and support to take their talent and business ideas to the next level. TSA will become the key hub of that by creating a central focus where entrepreneurs and other advisers can share, support, motivate and drive each other on. As a member of the TSA Advisory Board it's really exciting to be playing a small part in the bright future of the Scottish tech community"

Olivia Gambelin commented, "Having started my professional life in the heart of the Silicon Valley, I was intrigued to discover what Edinburgh and Scotland in general had to offer in terms of fostering the tech industry. Since moving, I've come to know the Scottish as a wonderfully friendly and welcoming people, which makes me all the more excited to see how this will lead Scotland forward in embracing tech with arms wide open. Scotland has so much hidden opportunity, it's about time the world knew the potential tucked into these beautiful green lands, and I am honoured take part in the initiative to do just that by joining the Advisory Board of Tech Scotland Advocates."

Jordan Maguire commented, "I am very excited to be involved with such a likeminded, determined group of people who are passionate about the technology sector in this country. We are all driven to make sure the people and industries of Scotland are in a position to build upon our proud history of contributing to this field and ensuring Scotland is internationally recognised for its achievements in changing the world through innovation"

Neil Mackenzie said, "Procurement processes are often seen as a barrier to innovation, IPR, new technology and new suppliers, especially SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups. I'm pleased to be able to contribute to the TSA Advisory Board as, by working across the supply chain (buy-side and sell-side), we can all help to surface the issues, promote better procurement practice and change behaviours, notably in buyers' attitude to the management of risk. Buyers need to be contracting for change rather absolute certainty."

About Global Tech Advocates:

Global Tech Advocates is a private sector led coalition of more than 10,000 expert individuals from the tech sector and broader community who have committed to championing world-class hubs for tech and digital businesses. It strives to support tech start-ups and high-growth businesses in finding new investment, new talent and continued success. The full list of groups include:

• Tech London Advocates

• Tech Nordic Advocates

• Tech North Advocates

• Tech Bay Area Advocates

• Tech Belfast Advocates

• Tech Singapore Advocates

• Tech Spain Advocates

• Tech Shanghai Advocates

• Tech Bogotá Advocates

• Tech Italy Advocates

• Tech Scotland Advocates

• Tech Paris Advocates

• Tech Shenzhen Advocates

• Tech Japan Advocates

You can find more information at: http://www.techlondonadvocates.org.uk/global-tech-advocates/

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