



## BigBooster cements its unique position in Europe

**(Lyon, France – October 3rd, 2016)** - Revolving around two world's top innovation hubs, Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region) and Boston (Massachusetts), the non profit international acceleration program BigBooster teams up with 150 mentors and experts committed to the success of enrolled startups.

### Exciting launching of season 2

Applications to season 2 closed early this week foreseeing **high quality projects** equally distributed between the **three categories of the competition** (« Biotech and Health », « Informative Tech », « Global Impact »). « *We took the program to the next level. The application turnout confirms the interest and the quality of the program* » states Didier Hoch, Chairman of BigBooster. Applications come from **France, USA, Africa and Middle East as well as Canada and South Korea. 41% of applications come from foreign countries and another 30% come from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region** which "*emphasizes the ability of our local ecosystem to foster the growth of innovating projects* » underlines Anne-Marie Graffin, CEO of BigBooster.

### New partners join the adventure

"Our founding partners, the métropole de Lyon and the city of Boston, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, BPI France, CapGemini, MassChallenge and Sanofi, as well as Schneider and Aéroports de Lyon who joined us lately, are deeply involved to work hand in hand with our team and startups" explains Didier Hoch. The signature Booster Camps embodies this state of mind. These short and intense 3 days seminars bring together **150 mentors, experts, judges and key speakers** committed to provide **valuable content** to the startups willing to improve their value proposition and go global.

### A reliable and successful model

BigBooster gives startups the opportunity to take the leap by providing them with **key insights on how to access the French and American market**. BigBooster definitely matches the needs of regions, partners and startups for innovation, economic and business development. This fruitful synergy encourages BigBooster to keep growing while remaining true to what it is:

- **Tailor-made partnerships in strategic countries**
- **Key stakeholders**
- An **open-minded, kind and cooperative international program**

### Next Steps:

- Oct 10: Announcement of the selected startups
- Nov 8-10: Lyon Booster Camp

### Partners of the project

This program is implemented thanks to the support of: the *Métropole de Lyon*, the city of Boston, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, *Université de Lyon*, MassChallenge, the French Tech, *Aéroports de Lyon*, Sanofi, Schneider, Capgemini, Bpifrance, Keolis, Air France, Delta, EDF, Institut Mérieux, Klesia, Cegid, TBWA Corporate, Seb and Oriol.

### About Big Booster

Founded in April 2015, BigBooster is a unique international non-profit acceleration program for early-stage startups with cutting edge innovation in the fields of Bio Health, Informative Tech and Global Impact. Organized between Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France) and Boston (Massachusetts, USA), two worldwide renowned hubs with strong innovation ecosystems, its goal is to become the largest European competition for early-stage startups with a global outreach and namely from the Europe-Middle East-Africa zone. Bolstered by many public and private partners, BigBooster is organized by *Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon*.

For additional information, please visit: [www.bigbooster.org](http://www.bigbooster.org)

### About the *Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon*

Created in 2012, the *Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon* was conceived out of shared belief by the region's economic sector, the University of Lyon and public stakeholders that socioeconomic development of the region and the promotion of its higher education and research go hand-in-hand. Presided over by Bernard Bigot, the Foundation supports the University of Lyon in its ambition to become one of Europe's top ten higher education and research clusters, promotes its influence on an international scale and contributes to its continuing excellence in the region.

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