



BigBooster settles in China in partnership with emlyon business school

(Lyon, France – February 14th, 2017) - While 20 startups are currently in Boston, learning the “ins and outs” of the 4th Global Startup Ecosystem, the non-profit international acceleration program announces a new partnership with emlyon business school Asia and BigBooster China, in the presence of Laurent Wauquiez, President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

Since its creation in 2015, BigBooster had got one clear goal: open the doors to international markets for startups from Europe, Middle-East and Africa. As startups join this unique international program, they can immerse themselves in the most dynamic global ecosystem around the globe. Following Boston and Lyon, BigBooster’ next stop is China with a first Booster Camp in Shanghai.

For Chinese investors, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region is a preferred gateway to Europe. This partnership will rely on the existing synergies between these two territories in order to provide startups with the best opportunities for economic growth and international development such as the one created between Lyon and Boston, the 2 world-renowned innovation hubs.

“This agreement embodies the opening of BigBooster in China and is based on the successful experience of the program in the US. It relies on a deep understanding of territories and committed partners. BigBooster now operates in 4 continents” states Didier Hoch, Chairman of BigBooster.

This partnership is built upon the entrepreneurship excellence **of emlyon business school. The top business school settled in China in June 2015 and opened the Asia Europe Business School (AEBS)** with East China Normal University (ECNU).

“By partnering with BigBooster, we implement a unique training program to support high-potential projects, promote the excellence of our territory abroad and connect our makers with the Asian market” explains Bernard Belletante, Managing Director of emlyon business school.

With the strong support of institutional partners, the Métropole de Lyon, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, and industrial partners already involved alongside BigBooster in France and China (SEB, Institut Mérieux, « Nouvel Institut Franco-Chinois », Sanofi, Schneider Electric, Cathay Capital, Club Santé Chine, French Tech Shanghai and Hong-Kong), the agreement has been signed by:

- Vincent Hamelin, Vice President Asia – BigBooster program
- Bernard Belletante, Managing Director of emlyon business school
- William Wang, Managing Director of emlyon business school Asia and AEBS

Thanks to this new collaboration, **emlyon business school and BigBooster** will offer a deep immersion into the Asian entrepreneurial ecosystem and Shanghai New Economy. Startups will be hosted by emlyon Asia incubator, involved in the Alumni Tour (working sessions between startups and big companies) and work with Chinese mentors. By stepping into Shanghai, BigBooster strengthens its international ambition and enlarges its scope of actions and its community of talents.

About BigBooster

Founded in April 2015, BigBooster is a unique international non-profit acceleration program for startups based in Europe, Middle-East, and Africa with cutting edge innovation in the fields of Bio Health, Informative Tech and Global Impact. This program is built upon short and intense competitions called “Booster Camp”. These intense 3-days working sessions are organized in top dynamic global ecosystem such as Lyon, Boston, Shanghai, etc. Bolstered by many public and private partners, BigBooster is organized by the *Fondation pour l’Université de Lyon*. For additional information, please visit: 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.

About emlyon business school

Founded in 1872, emlyon business school trains 4.100 students and 5.500 executives each year. The school belongs to the 1% of business schools in the world which have the triple accreditation - AACSB, AMBA & EQUIS. emlyon business school has 5 campuses in the world (Lyon, Saint-Étienne, Casablanca, Shanghai, Paris), manages a network of 145 international academic partners and a community of 27.000 alumni in 107 countries. www.em-lyon.com

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