

Frankfurt, Germany – August 3, 2017 – The application process for the Autumn/Winter 2017 batch of the PANDO. Ventures Accelerator Program has now opened. Six of the best applications will be selected from the application pool and the founders will then proceed to undergo an intensive 4-month process which will lead up to a pitch before investors in a bid to obtain seed funding for their projects.

PANDO. Ventures runs two such batches in a year, working with 6 ventures per batch to help them polish their ideas and prepare them for the investor pitch at the end of the session. The program provides founders with a coworking space at PANDO. Ventures offices as well as pitch training, mentoring, and hands on support for everything that comes with starting a business, like marketing, legal, financial, brand management and brand establishment. Aside from that, the accelerator program also connects their founders to potential investors, mentors and other interesting ventures through their wide business network. Every applicant gets a personal mentor who's reachable 24/7 during the program.

The PANDO. accelerator program is based on the principle of "Silicon Valley dreaming meets German economic mindset" and targets digital start-ups in low market entry barrier industries that can be initiated even with a low starting capital; traits commonly identified in digital business models. As Arne Wüllner, Managing Partner has said, "We at PANDO. are always looking for innovative, creative individuals with the drive and dedication to see their disruptive ventures through and the motivation to change his or her own life and the lives of others".

Members of their previous batch include the RoboAdvisory company RadenBrock, the online art purchasing and leasing platform Smart Collectors, and the joint-venture e-commerce platform, Flexeo. RadenBrock was started by Marius Streb, a former student at the Otto Beisheim School of Management (WHU) and the project has recently secured its first round of funding. Smart Collectors was founded by Christian Rother and is a platform that allows art enthusiasts to rent art pieces for a monthly fee. The platform also provides a buying option for the artwork and allows the buyer to purchase the piece for its original purchase price, regardless of any increase in market price and deducting any "rent" already paid for the piece.

PANDO. Ventures has also recently established a new branch of operations, PANDO. Corporate. An offshoot of PANDO. Ventures, PANDO. Corporate aims to provide assistance to German SMEs mainly in the areas of change management, lean operations, digitisation, communications and HR. They do this by way of paid workshops, corporate sprints, consulting and advisory engagements, their

“Speed Boat” program which is designed to help large companies to reacquire the speed and agility of lean start-ups, and their corporate accelerator program. Florian Keller, a member of the team heading PANDO. Corporate said, “Digitisation is a reality in today’s market. Such rapid change calls for flexibility in adapting and one of our goals is to help German SMEs to embrace it and integrate it into their business operations”.