

MEDIA RELEASE – TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014

INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES ‘YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR SUMMER SESSION’ (YESS) STARTUP PROGRAM AT ENTRY 29

UNDER EMBARGO before 12pm, Wed 3 December 2014

Deputy Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA will today launch a new partnership between Canberra Innovation Network, GRIFFIN Accelerator and Entry29 to provide young entrepreneurs with office space, mentoring and support for three months.

The Young Entrepreneurs Summer Session will be delivered by the innovative co-working space Entry29, and funded by the Canberra Innovation Network. Mentoring to the startups will be provided by the prestigious GRIFFIN Accelerator incubator.

The successful teams from this year’s [Innovation ACT](#) program will take part in the inaugural [Youth Entrepreneur Summer Session](#) (YESS). YESS will help young startup founders with the next stages in their journey; developing products, and securing those vital first customers.

The participating startups are: [OzGuild](#), Vacant Space, [KRIGE Tech](#), and [Behaviomatrix](#).

Deputy Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA said he was delighted to launch the YESS program.

‘This is a significant advancement of Canberra’s innovation and startup community’, he said.

‘This program will expand the knowledge and experience of our youth startup community by providing a terrific opportunity to learn about the world of startups, and disruptive innovation,’ said Mr Barr.

Entry 29 Manager Matt Stimson said that the organisation is excited about the inaugural Youth Entrepreneur Summer Session.

‘I believe that the ACT early stage venture ecosystem is coming into its own. I look forward to seeing the YESS participants building their innovative products, and landing those critical first customers, alongside other Canberra startups at Entry 29,’ he said.

Entry 29 is a community-based member organisation that operates Canberra’s community co-working space for startups, providing relevant events and programs for ACT entrepreneurs.

CBR Innovation Network is a collaboration between five world-class research and education institutes in the ACT, dedicated to developing a diverse and thriving innovation ecosystem.

The GRIFFIN Accelerator (<http://griffinaccelerator.com.au>) is a 3 month intensive program run by a group of seasoned Canberra entrepreneurs who invest in, host, teach, and mentor selected startups to create successful businesses.

Deputy Chief Minister Barr will launch the YESS program today at 11am-12pm at Level 5, 1 Moore Street. The Croatian Ambassador is attending, as are the YESS participants and representatives from Canberra’s startup ecosystem and innovation network.

Media Contact: Craig Davis, CEO, GRIFFIN Accelerator Ph: 0412 819 376

Interview and Photo opportunities:

Deputy Chief Minister The Hon Andrew Barr MLA

Mr Matt Stimson, Manager, Entry 29

Ms Sarah Pearson, CBR Innovation