

13 March 2014

Attention: Company Announcements  
ASX Limited

By E-Lodgement

**AWI INVESTS \$1 MILLION IN FINANCIAL SERVICES STARTUP COMPETITION**

Australasian Wealth Investments Limited today announced it will invest \$1 million in financial services startups through the newly established AWI Ventures Accelerator Program.

A copy of the media release relating to this announcement is enclosed.

Yours faithfully

**Peter Friend**  
**Company Secretary**



Media Release - for immediate release

## **AWI INVESTS \$1 MILLION IN FINANCIAL SERVICES STARTUP COMPETITION**

Sydney, Australia – Thursday, 13 March 2014

Australasian Wealth Investments Limited (“**AWI**”) today announced it will invest \$1 million in financial services startups through the newly established AWI Ventures Accelerator Program.

AWI Ventures is seeking applications from entrepreneurial teams for up to \$100,000 in investment funding to develop their ideas for financial services digital startups and to support them through to a series A funding round.

“This is the only financial services focused accelerator in Australia and one of the first in the world. The program aims to provide the environment and specific industry and regulatory support that financial services startups require to thrive,” said AWI Chairman Andrew Barnes.

“Australia has a world renowned financial services sector and some highly skilled digital technologists. By combining these industries, we believe Australia can play a leading role in financial services innovation globally. Through AWI Ventures, our goal is to be a leading capital provider, and trusted partner, for financial services entrepreneurs in Australia, across the region and ultimately around the world.”

AWI Ventures will invite a small number of teams (typically 2-3 entrepreneurs per team) to join the Accelerator Program in each intake. The first intake of startups will be selected in April 2014, drawn from across Australasia and based in AWI’s Sydney offices. AWI Ventures expects to invite at least 10 teams to participate over the next 12 months.

“We are open to applications from around the region and we are excited by some of the ideas we have already seen, particularly in the delivery of customer oriented products and services,” said AWI CEO Ben Heap.

“The earlier applicants apply, the better their chances of being part of the Accelerator Program. Your idea need not be fully formed, just get your application in and we will work with you.”

Selected teams will become part of the Accelerator Program where, as well as office space, administrative, legal and accounting support, they will have access to experienced mentors and to AWI’s network of financial services and technology industry leaders.



Teams should demonstrate their ability to deliver a working minimum viable product and initial proof of market within 3-4 months with the aim of raising a second round of capital within 6 months.

"Not every team will be successful, but we are confident we will back some successful ventures and we look forward to growing with them," Mr Heap added.

AWI Ventures is a subsidiary of AWI, an investment company listed on the ASX focusing on the financial services sector. Through AWI Ventures, AWI invests in early stage businesses where these businesses complement its core operating businesses – digital distribution, research & information, funds management and trustee & super services.

Applications are now open for the April 2014 intake. The application form and details are available at [www.awilimited.com/ventures](http://www.awilimited.com/ventures).

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