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PRESS RELEASE

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WE IN SOCIAL TECH BUSINESS ACCELERATOR LAUNCHES, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY, FOR SOCIAL GOOD.

London brunch launch event planned for 01 November 2018

An inspiring new business accelerator for women, [We in Social Tech](#), will celebrate its official launch with a high-impact event at the beginning of next month, as applications open for the first female-led, tech-for-good businesses cohorts.

A panel talk and brunch in London on 01 November will formally outline how the new London-based business accelerator will work towards improving the gender imbalance in the UK's technology sector throughout the next two years and, importantly, support and grow tech businesses that contribute to the greater good.

Female entrepreneurship remains a challenging path, particularly within the male-dominated arena of technology. Yet *We in Social Tech* (*We* standing for Women Entrepreneurs) believes there's no need to go it alone. It will offer intensive support, business consultancy and mentoring, alongside unparalleled access to industry experts and the use of a collaborative workspace in which to start and grow businesses from the ground up.

Alongside the brunch, *We in Social Tech* spokesperson Ghislaine Boddington, of [body>data>space](#) and [Women Shift Digital](#), will lead a panel discussion on **Value and Values: Supporting Sustainable Tech Business and Contributing to the Greater Good**. Joining her on the panel will be Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE, CEO, Co-founder and Head Stemette of [Stemettes](#), Anjali Ramachandran, Director of [Storythings](#), Co-founder of [Ada's List](#) and Writer at [Other Valleys](#), as well as Julian Blake, Director and Editor of [Digital Agenda](#).

Ghislaine Boddington says, "I am honoured to be spokesperson for *We in Social Tech*, a project close to my heart in terms of topical needs for today's shifting world. It is an exciting and important time to be supporting excellence in entrepreneurial activity by women focussing their purpose into

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businesses that enable a positive merge of value and values. I believe strongly that supporting new models of sustainable businesses, that are passionate about social impact within particular communities of need, can help empower positive scenarios worldwide.”

The accelerator is delivered by [Nwes](#), the largest not-for-private-profit enterprise agency in the UK, and supported by Deutsche Bank, through its social enterprise program [Made for Good](#). *We in Social Tech* will begin its mission by supporting 60 fantastic female founders of all ages, as they start, grow and scale their businesses that contribute towards change in society. Three cohorts of 20 will receive individual and bespoke support during each six-month span. The accelerator is based at [Wood Green Works](#), a new workspace supported by Haringey Council and operated by Nwes.

The two key criteria for participation are that businesses must be at least 50% owned by women and geared towards boosting positive social impacts. As an added bonus, the accelerator is 100% free of charge, with no equity taken in return for support.

Richard Salmon, Regional Director of Nwes explains, “Women entrepreneurs in the technology sector face greater challenges and obstacles to success than men, and research shows that women are sorely under-represented, with less than 7% of tech jobs in Europe filled by women. There appears to be a lack of role models, gross pay inequality, as well as challenges in raising finance. In wider entrepreneurship terms, women are still in the minority despite having the potential to make a huge impact. Through providing structured and bespoke support to female-led businesses we can work together to remove these barriers.”

Nicole Lovett, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility UK at Deutsche Bank says, “Technology and innovative business models have the potential to solve some of the world’s most pressing environmental and societal problems, whilst also boosting economic competitiveness. But many entrepreneurs are held back by the unique challenges to build sustainable business models that deliver user, social and financial value at scale, and be seen as attractive to potential investors. In addition to investment to the programme, Deutsche Bank will provide 720-hours of both tech industry and employee mentoring. This will enable the 60 female-led businesses that take part in the programme to make a significant step change, and make an impact on the gender imbalance within London’s tech scene.”

Cllr Charles Adje, Haringey Council’s Cabinet Member for Strategic Regeneration says: “Careers in technology are the future and we are delighted that we have these brilliant opportunities on offer in our borough and across London. This industry clearly needs more women to lead the way and I’m really looking forward to seeing the talent this programme will bring to Haringey.”

The first Open Call to the programme is open for applications until 19 November, at:

<https://weinsocialtech.co.uk/#apply>

Find out more about the *We in Social Tech* accelerator: <https://www.weinsocialtech.co.uk/>.

The *We in Social Tech* launch brunch event will be held:

Thursday 01 November, from 9.30 - 11.30 am.

Deutsche Bank Auditorium, 10 Upper Bank Street, Canary Wharf, London E14 5GH.

Registration opens at 9:30am. Programme kick starts at 10:00 am for a finish at 11:30 am.
Brunch will be served.

Register for the launch brunch at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-in-social-tech-accelerator-launch-tickets-51036508571>

Notes to editors:

To attend the *We in Social Tech* brunch and panel discussion as a member of the media, please email: ana.hersak@nwes.org.uk

The *We in Social Tech* media library can be accessed at:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=17w8_Xtv6FbNZo89UPmGjF-JpmYrmSOee

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About Nwes

Nwes is the largest not-for-private-profit enterprise agency in the UK. With 40-years of experience working with entrepreneurs across multiple sectors, Nwes helps to start-up 2,000 businesses each year and supports more than 5,000 business owners through advice, skills master-classes, access to finance and workspace. Nwes has won multiple awards for its work in encouraging enterprise, providing total business support and capacity building to start-ups, for business growth and employment.

The Nwes social ethos includes addressing the under representation of female founders in the tech sector, as well as the unique challenges women face when growing a business, and assisting the growth of future role models. Nwes believes that technological advances can be harnessed by businesses to make a positive social impact in communities through creating employment, increased productivity and through the services and products they provide.

About Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank provides commercial and investment banking, retail banking, transaction banking and asset and wealth management products and services to corporations, governments, institutional investors, small and medium-sized businesses, and private individuals. Deutsche Bank is Germany's leading bank, with a strong position in Europe and a significant presence in the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Deutsche Bank's Made for Good programme helps start-up and early-stage social ventures focus on their long-term sustainability through assistance with business readiness, networks and operating systems and access to funding. In addition, the bank uses its position as a global institution to support important thought leadership initiatives that encourage wider understanding of social enterprise.