



## News Release

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### **SGX partners Clearbridge Accelerator to facilitate fund raising for entrepreneurs and SMEs**

Singapore Exchange (SGX) is partnering Clearbridge Accelerator Pte Ltd (CBA) to develop a capital-raising platform for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Asia.

SGX has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CBA, one of Singapore's leading venture capital and incubation firms specialising in early-stage investments. Under the MOU, SGX and CBA propose to form a joint-venture (JV) company to develop the fund-raising platform, which aims to address financing gaps SMEs and entrepreneurs face by providing transparency and more efficient access among the investing community.

The proposed JV will identify and form a strategic equity partnership with an experienced platform operator and industry stakeholders such as financial institutions to operate the new capital-raising platform. It will also identify other partners and collaborators to create investor demand for the capital offerings on the platform. Enterprise development agency SPRING Singapore will play a supporting role in the formation of the JV, as part of its ongoing efforts to make the financing environment more conducive to SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Mohamed Nasser Ismail, Head of SME Development & Listings, said, "We are excited about this opportunity to work with Clearbridge Accelerator to help companies access capital more easily and become a pan-Asian platform to support equity crowdfunding. SGX has a long history of supporting entrepreneurs: our Catalist board is a much sought-after avenue for SMEs to raise funds. This new platform will not only expand our suite of fund-raising services but also enable us to support entrepreneurs and SMEs at every stage of their growth."

"This joint venture with SGX represents the next step in Clearbridge Accelerator's objective of supporting visionary entrepreneurs in Singapore to raise the necessary capital and grow their companies to a higher level. We look forward to providing expertise in early-stage investments, mentoring and accelerating new ventures, as well as our extensive local and regional networks within the start-up ecosystem, investor community and relevant government agencies. Clearbridge Accelerator will work closely with SGX to grow this into a premier capital-raising platform for entrepreneurs and SMEs in Singapore and the region," said Johnson Chen, Managing Partner, Clearbridge Accelerator.

Edwin Chow, Executive Director, Innovation & Start-ups Group, SPRING Singapore, said, "SPRING Singapore works closely with our partners in strengthening our pro-enterprise environment. The presence of a robust financing landscape and an active involvement from the private investor community complements our efforts in helping our innovative and resilient local enterprises. With the development of such a platform, we hope to interest more investors to consider the value proposition of our local enterprises. We look forward to more such avenues to give our start-ups and SMEs a boost in their growth journey."

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## **About Singapore Exchange (SGX)**

Singapore Exchange (SGX) is the Asian Gateway, connecting investors in search of Asian growth to corporate issuers in search of global capital. SGX represents the premier access point for managing Asian capital and investment exposure, and is Asia's most international exchange with about 40% of companies listed on SGX originating outside of Singapore. SGX offers its clients the world's biggest offshore market for Asian equity index futures, centred on Asia's three largest economies – China, India and Japan.

In addition to offering a fully integrated value chain from trading and clearing, to settlement and depository services, SGX is also Asia's pioneering central clearing house. Headquartered in Asia's most globalised city, and centred within the AAA strength and stability of Singapore's island nation, SGX is a leading Asian counterparty for the clearing of financial and commodity products.

For more information, please visit [www.sgx.com](http://www.sgx.com)

## **About Clearbridge Accelerator (CBA)**

Launched in early 2010, Clearbridge Accelerator is one of Singapore's leading venture capital and incubation firms that invests in game-changing healthcare, infosecurity and technology companies. We have a strong track record in leading early stage investments, partnering with visionary entrepreneurs and world-leading institutions. Our team consists of serial entrepreneurs with deep domain expertise, extensive networks and operational experience. Supported by the National Research Foundation's Technology Incubation Scheme, CBA provides the necessary funding, mentorship, operational and execution discipline to deliver determined and accelerated results. In 2012, CBA became one of the two successful recipients of SPRING Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Accelerator (BSA) programme, and set up a subsidiary, Clearbridge BSA, to manage a S\$40 million fund for medical technology start-up companies.

For more information, please visit [www.clearbridgeaccelerator.com](http://www.clearbridgeaccelerator.com)

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