



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For investors, by investors: VC4A and ABAN announce 6th edition of its Africa Early Stage Investor Summit (#AESIS2019)**

- **13-15 November in Cape Town, South Africa**
- **Announces partnership with R1.4 billion start-up funding unit, Naspers Foundry**

**Cape Town, 16 July 2019** - VC4A and ABAN are pleased to announce the 6th edition of the Africa Early Stage Investor Summit (#AESIS2019). The Summit will take place from 13-15 November at Workshop17 at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference brings together leading investors from Africa and beyond to network, exchange insights, create partnerships and make deals. This event is designed ‘for investors, by investors’.

**What’s in store at #AESIS2019**

The Summit’s speakers and guests hail from the leading angel networks, venture capital (VC) funds, impact investors, accelerators, corporate venture divisions, industry associations, and the public sector. The number of Africa-focused angel investor networks and investment funds are rapidly growing and maturing, bringing both critical challenges and greater opportunities for venture capital funding on the continent. Summit delegates will explore developments in Africa’s early stage investment space and will set the agenda for the coming years.

**Day 1** on 13 November is ‘Academy Day’, which includes a series of interactive masterclasses and workshops, ending with a welcome cocktail reception. **Day 2** on 14 November is the main Summit Day and will include inspiring keynote presentations by industry leaders and roundtable discussions, and it will end with an Investor Dinner. **Day 3** on 15 November is the optional Innovation Tour featuring insightful visits to key start-up hubs, accelerator programs and scaled up start-ups in the Cape Peninsula area. The detailed program is being finalized.

**Announcing Naspers Foundry’s 2019 partnership**

Naspers Foundry will be sponsoring the Summit’s main cocktail reception on 14 November, and will be contributing to the Summit’s program development. Naspers Foundry is a R1.4 billion start-up funding initiative aimed at boosting the South African technology sector. As well as providing much needed funding, Naspers Foundry helps talented and ambitious technology entrepreneurs develop and grow businesses that improve people’s daily lives.

“At Naspers, we believe in backing local entrepreneurs in growth markets and helping them by leveraging our global scale and experience. The Africa Early Stage Investor Summit provides an unique opportunity for Naspers to engage with like-minded investors and ecosystem partners from across the continent as we build out Naspers Foundry, and our broader investment ambitions”, said Phuthi Mahanyele-Dabengwa, CEO South Africa, Naspers.

## Building on the success of 2018

The 2018 edition brought together over 300 investors from prominent African angel networks and VC funds to identify and address the critical gaps in the early stage investment space going into 2019. At the 2018 Summit, a number of successful partnerships were created, including a new partnership between South Africa's Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), a public entity and the South African angel investor networks, Dazzle Angels and Jozi Angels. ABAN also signed an MoU with the African Union to deepen their collaboration to support entrepreneurship across the continent.

Additionally, *L'Afrique Excelle*, the Francophone edition of the World Bank Group's XL Africa post-accelerator, formally launched at the 2018 Summit. The programme brought an unprecedented spotlight and momentum to French-speaking African growth stage start-ups. Over 30 VC funds including the IFC, ODV, Proparco, Outlierz Ventures and Compass VC formally signed up as investment partners for the program, with most of these partnerships formed over the two days of the Summit.

## VC4A Venture Showcase - Series A

In 2017 and 2018, the Summit also featured a venture showcase of leading African digitally enabled scale-ups from across the continent, resulting in a number of series A deals totaling over \$15 million.

In the 6th edition, ten growth stage companies that have been selected and vetted by Africa's leading VCs, will be introduced in the showcase. These companies represent a new class of investment opportunities across the continent. The selected ventures have strong revenues, are well positioned for regional and international expansion, and demonstrate important innovations that are disrupting industries like agriculture, healthcare, housing, transportation, and finance.

## Join us at #AESIS2019

To purchase a ticket or for more information, please visit [www.AfricanInvestorSummit.com](http://www.AfricanInvestorSummit.com). Get an early-bird discount price of USD \$375 if you purchase a ticket before 9 August. For media requests, and partnership and sponsorship opportunities, please contact the organizers by email: [team\[at\]AfricanInvestorSummit\[dot\]com](mailto:team[at]AfricanInvestorSummit[dot]com).



*VC4A is an ecosystem builder that leverages its infrastructure, network and expertise for the programs that contribute to Africa's startup movement. Since 2008, the organization designs, structures and implements successful entrepreneurship programs on the continent. VC4A runs an online platform featuring the world's largest database of African startups and connecting local entrepreneurs to learning resources, mentors, investors and partner programs. Visit <https://vc4a.com/> for more information.*



*The African Business Angel Network (ABAN) is a Pan-African non-profit association. ABAN was founded in early 2015 to support the development of early stage investor networks across the continent and to grow the cohort of early stage investors excited about the opportunities in Africa. Visit <https://abanangels.org/> for more information.*



*Naspers is a global consumer internet group and one of the largest technology investors in the world. The group operates and partners a number of leading internet businesses across Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia in sectors including online classifieds, payments and fintech, food delivery, travel, education, health, and social and internet platforms. Naspers has a primary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (NPN.SJ) and a secondary listing on the A2X Exchange (NPN.AJ) in South Africa, and has an ADR listing on the London Stock Exchange (LSE: NPSN). Visit [www.naspers.com](http://www.naspers.com) for more information.*