



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Launch of a First-Ever Innovation Accelerator Programme in Singapore for Large Japanese Organisations: Powered by Digital Business Innovation Center (DBIC), AIRmaker and Ascendas-Singbridge**

Singapore – Digital Business Innovation Center (DBIC), part of Center for Future Innovation Leaders (CeFIL) in Japan, is launching a five-month innovation accelerator programme in Singapore for its corporate members, mainly the large Japanese companies. Seven DBIC member organisations will form the first batch of companies joining the programme. These include: Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd.; Konica Minolta Inc.; Nihon Unisys, Ltd.; Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.; Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.; Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.; and Tokyo Gas i Net Corp. 10 executives from these seven organisations will be handpicked to participate in the accelerator programme.

To run the programme, DBIC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AIRmaker, the open co-innovation platform of Ascendas-Singbridge and Runyang. AIRmaker, which focuses on Digital Health and Smart Nation-related innovations, will provide ongoing support to the programme. In addition, the DBIC member organisations will be based out of thebridge, a new flexible workspace by Ascendas-Singbridge in Singapore Science Park 1.

Nishino Hiroshi, Co-Founder and Deputy Chairman of DBIC, said, “No industry can escape the impact of digital disruption. It is time for Japanese companies to explore and experiment with innovations overseas, together with local startups and partners. We are delighted to work with AIRmaker and Ascendas-Singbridge to make this happen for our member organisations. We believe this is the beginning of a new innovation era for Japanese organisations.”

Aylwin Tan, Chief Customer Solutions Officer of Ascendas-Singbridge, and Chairman of AIRmaker, commented, “AIRmaker was created to be an international co-innovation platform to catalyse the development of new global companies. We are excited to extend AIRmaker to Japan through this collaboration with DBIC, and to contribute to the co-innovation journey of leading Japanese organisations. We look forward to spending the next five months together, which we believe will be beneficial to all of us to learn, discover and innovate together!”

The accelerator programme will soon be opening up applications to partners who are keen to work together on innovation challenges with the member organisations.

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#### **About Digital Business Innovation Center (DBIC)**

Established in 2016, DBIC, an open innovation platform of Center for Future Innovation Leaders (CeFIL), consists of 34 large organisations. CeFIL was originally established in 2009 by Japan Business Federation’s (Keidanren) voluntary member companies and took over the executive function of its advanced Information and Communications Technology (ICT) human resource development working group. For more information on DBIC: <https://www.dbic.jp/about/en/>

#### **About AIRmaker**

AIRmaker, an open innovation platform established by Ascendas-Singbridge and Runyang, focuses on Smart Nation and digital health innovations. It runs accelerator programmes in two locations: Singapore and Shenzhen and works with corporates on their open innovation initiatives. For more information on AIRmaker: [www.airmaker.sg](http://www.airmaker.sg)

#### **About Ascendas-Singbridge Group**

Ascendas-Singbridge Group is Asia’s leading sustainable urban development and business space solutions provider with Assets Under Management exceeding S\$20 billion. Jointly owned by Temasek Holdings and JTC Corporation through a 51:49 partnership, the Group undertakes urbanisation projects spanning townships, mixed-use developments and business/industrial parks. Headquartered in Singapore, Ascendas-Singbridge has projects in 28 cities across 9 countries in Asia, including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea. Ascendas-Singbridge holds commercial, hospitality and industrial assets across Asia Pacific. It has a substantial interest in and also manages three Singapore-listed funds under its subsidiary Ascendas, namely Ascendas Reit (a Straits Times Index component stock), Ascendas India Trust and Ascendas Hospitality Trust. Besides these listed funds, it also manages a series of private real estate funds. For more information on Ascendas-Singbridge: [www.ascendas-singbridge.com](http://www.ascendas-singbridge.com)

**About thebridge**

Developed by Ascendas-Singbridge, *thebridge* is an extension of the Group's portfolio of sustainable urban development and business space solutions – combining flexible workspaces with collaborative areas for interaction. More than just a physical space, *thebridge*'s flagship space, located at Ascent in Singapore Science Park 1, features contemporary facilities, with access to amenities, events, programmes, and an Asia-wide network of science and business parks operated by Ascendas-Singbridge. For information on *thebridge*: [www.thebridge-asb.com](http://www.thebridge-asb.com)

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