

# **New America, The Bitfury Group and the National Democratic Institute Launch First-Ever Accelerator Initiative for Advancing Social Impact Through the Use of Blockchain Technologies**

*New initiative will help successfully launch and deploy Blockchain-based pilot projects that improve lives and governance worldwide*

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**WASHINGTON, D.C. – JUNE 20, 2016** – Today New America, The Bitfury Group, and the National Democratic Institute announced the launch of the Blockchain Trust Accelerator Institute, a platform that will connect Blockchain-based pilot concepts with the technologists, governments, and funders in order to deliver better governance outcomes and social impact. The Blockchain Trust Accelerator will help match promising pilot proposals with the civic expertise and technical partners needed to produce software that can be successfully scaled to address social and governance challenges.

“The idea for this groundbreaking partnership and organization was solidified during The Bitfury Group’s 2016 Blockchain Summit on Sir Richard Branson’s Necker Island,” said Jamie Smith, Global Chief Communications Officer for The Bitfury Group and former deputy White House Press Secretary. “During our very unique Summit, we determined that the ecosystem needs a thoughtful process specifically dedicated to launching, funding and supporting Blockchain pilot projects focused entirely on global change for good. The Bitfury Group is a company dedicated to positive global change and we look forward to working to enhance the impact of the groundbreaking Blockchain technology.”

“This initiative will dramatically accelerate the number and quality of blockchain pilot programs designed to deliver benefits to society,” said Dr. Tomicah Tillemann, Director of the Bretton Woods II initiative at New America and former Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies at the U.S. Department of State. “Ultimately, democracy is an operating system, and Blockchain technology has the potential to help upgrade that operating system. We’ve seen a billion dollars flow into the research and development of Blockchain technology in the last year, but the bulk of that funding has been dedicated to solutions for the finance sector. Accountability, transparency, and trust are essential for building strong nations and institutions, and we’re eager to see Blockchain used to combat corruption, fraud and bureaucratic inefficiency. The Blockchain Trust Accelerator initiative will provide a way to rapidly deploy Blockchain-based solutions to critical social and governance problems.”

**Additional Key Background**

The Blockchain Trust Accelerator initiative will be managed through New America and will focus on locating, matching and supporting individuals from the technology, business, academia, governments, and philanthropy spheres to pursue pilot programs using Blockchain technology.

The Blockchain Trust Accelerator initiative team plans to establish a Board of Directors from diverse backgrounds who are all dedicated to global change for better.

The Blockchain Trust Accelerator initiative will begin reviewing proposals through an online portal in July 2016. Pilot proposals will be evaluated and reviewed by the Blockchain Trust Accelerator Board for their probability and maximization of success, feasibility of implementation, and opportunities for scaling-up and partnership. Highly ranked proposals will then be matched with governments and funding opportunities for implementation. The review board of the Blockchain Trust Accelerator will oversee the Blockchain pilot programs and conduct periodic reviews to ensure the projects are progressing and communicate results to both stakeholders and the public.

New America, The Bitfury Group and NDI welcome additional partners to the Blockchain Trust Accelerator Team and look forward to expanding our coalition with additional partners who are dedicated to democracy, good governance, and positive global impact.

More information will be available at [www.newamerica.org](http://www.newamerica.org) and [www.bitfury.org](http://www.bitfury.org) in the coming weeks.

### **About New America**

Founded in 1999, New America is a think tank and civic enterprise committed to renewing American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the Digital Age. We generate big ideas, bridge the gap between technology and policy, and curate broad public conversation.

### **About The Bitfury Group**

The Bitfury Group is the leading full service Blockchain technology company and one of the largest private infrastructure providers in the Blockchain ecosystem. The Bitfury Group develops and delivers both the software and the hardware solutions necessary for businesses, governments, organizations and individuals to securely move an asset across the Blockchain. The expertise of The Bitfury Group ensures successful, easy, fast, secure and cost-effective connectivity to the Blockchain. The Bitfury Group is a global team of experts in technology, business, communications, security and civil society. The Bitfury Group believes the Blockchain can and will open new doors for global economic opportunity and prosperity, and its mission is to create and advance Blockchain applications that will further promote innovation and the advancement of the peer-to-peer economy and the Economy of Things.

### **About Blockchain Technology**

The Blockchain is a transformational, peer-to-peer technology that facilitates direct asset transfer through a decentralized network. Its transparency, simplicity and low cost extend its applications well beyond finance, and its security makes it a valuable tool for fighting cybercrime.

Blockchain technology can strengthen security and governance and help lay a strong foundation for profound global and social change. From safeguarding property and voting rights, to financing the work of civil society, to combating identity theft and human trafficking, there are many exciting potential uses for Blockchain technology. Any asset of value – such as currency, health records or land titles – can be placed into the Blockchain. Anyone with an Internet connection can then directly transact these assets in a secure, fast and transparent way. No more paper, and no more expensive, slow and hackable intermediaries.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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