

# First Ever Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC) Launching in Davos

*Formed by The Bitfury Group in collaboration with Covington - Major Launch Event Will Bring Together Global Leaders and Innovators*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA – January 4, 2017 – The Bitfury Group, the leading global full-service Blockchain technology company, announced today that in collaboration with international law-firm Covington, it is launching the first ever Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC) around the World Economic Forum 2017 Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland this January.

The mission of the GBBC is to bring together the world's leading businesses and business leaders to highlight the latest innovations and advances in Blockchain technology. The GBBC will serve as a resource center, providing a forum for education, collaboration and partnerships in the Blockchain space. The GBBC will assist companies by raising awareness of the potential of Blockchain technology and engaging businesses interested in embracing and promoting this innovative technology to grow and enhance their reach and abilities. Learn more at [www.gbbccouncil.org](http://www.gbbccouncil.org).

“The GBBC will provide a much-needed forum for businesses, innovators and technologists to come together and explore the many opportunities that Blockchain technology has to offer. This is a crucial step in the global advancement of Blockchain technology,” said Val Vavilov, CEO of the Bitfury Group.

“It is a tremendous honor for us to feature such an all-star lineup at our first ever launch event in Davos around the World Economic Forum: Uschi Schreiber, Global Vice Chair of Markets & Chair of Global Accounts Committee for EY; Patrick Byrne, Chief Executive Officer of Overstock; Dr. Wei Wang, Founding Chairman of China Mergers and Acquisitions Association; Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister of Sweden; Toomas Hendrik Ilves, former President of Estonia; Hernando de Soto, world-renowned economist; and Don Tapscott, best-selling author”, said Jamie Smith, global chief of communications and marketing officer for The Bitfury Group and Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Future Council on Blockchain.

“Blockchain has the potential to be the next great technological innovation, revolutionizing areas from cross-border payments, trade finance and land registries to government records”, said Sebastian Vos, Co-Chair of Covington's global public policy and government affairs practice. “Through advocacy and international engagement, Covington looks forward to working with the Global Blockchain Business Council to unlock the potential of Blockchain technology.”

### **Event and Speaker Details**

The GBBC's inaugural event will be hosted at the World Economic Forum's 2017 Annual Meeting in Davos by The Bitfury Group, in collaboration with international law-firm Covington. The GBBC launch will be celebrated at an evening dinner on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ameron Swiss Mountain Hotel. The agenda boasts an impressive cross section of tech-savvy heads of state and business leaders, including Uschi Schreiber, Global Vice Chair of Markets & Chair of Global Accounts Committee for EY; Patrick Byrne, Chief Executive Officer of Overstock; Dr. Wei Wang, Founding Chairman of China Mergers and Acquisitions Association; the Honorable Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister of Sweden; the Honorable Toomas Hendrik Ilves, former President of Estonia; Hernando de Soto, world-renowned economist; and Don Tapscott, best-selling author. Notable attendees include a delegation of prominent blockchain executives and venture capitalists from China.

### **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.

### **About Covington**

Covington has broad-based experience across the many industries in which Blockchain technology will be deployed. Covington is uniquely positioned to advise clients in connection with policy, regulatory litigation, enforcement and investigations, privacy and data security, consumer protection and transactional matters relating to distributed ledger technology. Their team includes more than 120 former government and enforcement officials, including the former Attorney General and Comptroller of the Currency, a former Prime Minister and a member of the UK House of Lords, who offer clients exceptional insight as they navigate complex regulatory, legal, policy and litigation issues relating to the adoption of disruptive technologies.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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