

# The Bitfury Group Expands Communications And Marketing Team

## *Former White House Reporter Joins Largest Full Service Blockchain Company*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – October 18, 2016**—The Bitfury Group announced today that they have expanded their communications and marketing operations to include two new team members.

Veteran White House and political reporter Sam Youngman has joined the company as Deputy Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, and Kathleen Collins has joined as the new Communications and Marketing Associate. Rachel Pipan, who served as Communications and Marketing Associate has been promoted to Senior Communications and Marketing Manager and all report to Global Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, Jamie Smith.

“When people understand what Blockchain really is, they are completely amazed by the power and potential of this groundbreaking technology. Our job and deep commitment is to work with the entire Blockchain ecosystem to expand global understanding of this innovation. We do that through all forms of strategic communication and marketing – owned, earned, digital, social, creative – all the tools in our toolbox and beyond,” said Jamie Smith, Global Chief Communications and Marketing Officer for The Bitfury Group. “Now is the time for our ecosystem to welcome in the best and the brightest talent in the communications and marketing space, and The Bitfury Group—and I personally—am so lucky to work with the best team on earth to help lead the way.”

“The greatest barrier to this amazing technology is lack of understanding. Jamie and her team are breaking barriers every day and transforming people’s understanding of why Blockchain technology matters and why they should care,” said Val Vavilov, CEO of the Bitfury Group. “As the CEO of the largest full service Blockchain technology company, we are focused on working with and for the entire Blockchain community and advancing a collective understanding at every level so that all companies in the space can succeed.”

### **About the Bitfury Communications Team**

**Jamie Smith:** As Global Chief Communications and Marketing Officer for The Bitfury Group, Smith is leading global initiatives designed to fundamentally change the way the global community does business, transfers value, and opens up new doors to prosperity for billions of people throughout the world. Smith previously served as Special Assistant to President Obama and deputy White House press secretary, Executive Vice President at Edelman Public Relations, Director of Public Affairs for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and General James Clapper, Communications Director for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation under its then

Chairman John D (Jay) Rockefeller IV, Traveling Press Director for Secretary Hillary Clinton's 2008 Presidential Campaign, Communications Director for former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and The Albright Group, LLC. and policy aide to Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey (D-NY). Jamie serves as the new Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Future Council on Blockchain and sits on the Board of the Bretton Woods II Initiative at New America.

**Sam Youngman:** Sam Youngman is the new Deputy Chief Communications and Marketing Officer for The Bitfury Group. Youngman is a veteran White House policy and political reporter with more than 15 years of experience. He has covered the inner workings of Washington, D.C. and political campaigns ranging from U.S. House and Senate races to the presidential campaigns of 2004, 2008 and 2012 for Reuters. In 2008, Youngman established a White House beat on behalf of *The Hill*, serving as the publication's first White House correspondent and covering the Bush and Obama administrations. Youngman has appeared on countless national and international news programs, including PBS's Washington Week, Special Report with Bret Baier, On the Record with Greta Van Susteren, the Rachel Maddow Show and many others. Most recently, Youngman was political writer for the Lexington Herald-Leader in his native Kentucky, covering the re-election of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the state's 2015 gubernatorial race and U.S. Sen. Rand Paul's presidential campaign.

**Rachel Pipan:** Rachel Pipan is advancing to serve as the Senior Communications and Marketing Manager for The Bitfury Group. She previously worked as the Communications Associate for The Bitfury Group. Pipan is an award-winning public relations professional and multimedia strategist. Before joining The Bitfury Group, Pipan worked on the media strategies team for Edelman Public Relations. During her time at Edelman, she worked with organizations such as Samsung, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Educational Testing Service, U.S. Travel Association and others. Pipan received her master of arts in strategic communication from American University and was an honored graduate of Auburn University, graduating with a B.A. in public relations and a minor in business.

**Kathleen Collins:** Kathleen Collins is The Bitfury Group's new Communications and Marketing Associate. Collins is a talented writer and innovative communicator. She graduated magna cum laude from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Before joining The Bitfury Group, she worked with National Endowments for the Humanities, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Points of Light Institute.

#### **Find them on Twitter:**

Jamie Smith: @BlockchainSmith  
Sam Youngman: @SamYoungman  
Rachel Pipan: @RachelPipan  
Kathleen Collins: @KathleenColl3

#### **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.

### **Bitfury Group Board**

The Bitfury Group works with a board of remarkable individuals, including: Jason Weinstein (Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the Dept. of Justice, now Partner at Steptoe & Johnson), Dr. Tomicah Tillemann (Former Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies to the Secretary of State, now Director of the Bretton Woods II Initiative at New America), Jim Newsome (Former Chairman of the CFTC, now Founding Partner of Delta Strategy Group), Dr. Jackson Hu (Former Chairman/CEO of UMC, now Venture Partner for Wi Harper), Hernando de Soto (renowned economist and President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy), Jeff Garzik (Former Principal Software Engineer for Red Hat, now co-founder at Bloq), Young K. Sohn (Former President of Quantum Corporation, now President and Chief Strategy Officer at Samsung Electronics), Jonathan Teo (Former MD at General Catalyst, now Founder of Binary Capital), Bob Dykes (Former CFO of VeriFone, now Founder and President of Tanjarine and Head of Bitfury's Audit and Budget Committee), & Bill Tai (venture capitalist, co-founder of MaiTai Global and head of Bitfury's Strategy Committee).

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

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