

# News Release

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## **Avanade and The Aspire Foundation Announce Ambitious partnership to Empower Women in the Digital World**

*Partnership aims to impact more than a billion women by 2020 through business counsel and technology donations*

**NEW YORK/LONDON – 7 October, 2015 –** [Avanade](#) and [The Aspire Foundation](#) today announced a new partnership to help empower and upskill a billion women by 2020. The partnership, announced at the opening of Avanade's new innovation center in New York, will provide aspiring women working in charities and social enterprises access to quality business and technology mentoring, which is critical in today's digital world. Avanade will work with The Aspire Foundation to pair volunteers from across its organization with women seeking to learn more about management, leadership and technology. Avanade will also leverage its innovation centers and capabilities across the globe to help these women take an innovative and unique approach to solving problems.

This partnership is part of Avanade's corporate citizenship program, which aims to close the gender, technology and income gaps for women worldwide. "We are delighted to partner with The Aspire Foundation to help women around the world make a difference in their communities and families," said Adam Warby, Avanade CEO. "I am personally passionate about helping women tap into the potential that technology and innovation offer. Through the donation of our expertise in helping guide charities and social enterprises on their digital journeys, we hope to help The Aspire Foundation reach its goal of positively impacting one billion women by 2020."

To showcase their commitment to this partnership, Adam Warby and The Aspire Foundation CEO & Founder, Dr. Sam Collins, have agreed to be the first mentorship pairing. In addition, as part of the new office celebrations in New York, the team is encouraging employees, clients and partners to sign up as mentors.

"We strongly believe that women are the change enablers within their communities, and, with the right training, can help influence positive change," said Dr. Sam Collins. "This partnership with Avanade will provide valuable support to help women make a difference whilst allowing us to grow together and tell rich, compelling stories that encourage others to make an impact."

The Aspire Foundation currently has 500 mentees ready to participate in the program. Avanade and The Aspire Foundation will continue to identify mentees as part of the ongoing partnership. If you are interested in being a mentor or mentee, please visit the [The Aspire Foundation application page](#).

### **About Avanade**

Avanade leads in providing innovative digital services, business solutions and design-led experiences for its clients, delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals combine technology, business and industry expertise to build and deploy solutions to realize results for

clients and their customers. Avanade has 27,000 digitally connected people across 23 countries, bringing clients the best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at [www.avanade.com](http://www.avanade.com).

### **About Aspire Foundation**

The Aspire Foundation, the not-for-profit organizational arm of Aspire, seeks to make a difference to women leading change all over the world. The Foundation achieves this by offering pro-bono mentoring and coaching programs for senior influencers of change and aspiring leaders working in not-for-profit organizations including charities, social enterprises, government and community projects that are supporting women and girls across the world.

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