

**YouNoodle and UP Global Unveil YN1Kwomen, a Study of the  
Top 1000 Female-Founded Early-Stage Startups**

*2,942 judges from 53 competitions select the 1000 most promising female-founded early-stage startups spreading across six continents and 78 different countries*

**San Francisco – June 2, 2014** – [YouNoodle](#), a data-driven startup recruitment engine and customized end-to-end platform for the creation, management, and judging of startup competitions, today released the results of the YN1Kwomen study. YN1Kwomen focuses on the top 1000 entrepreneurs and ideas emanating from female founders who are part of the YouNoodle network. The study paints the picture of the female global startup ecosystem, with insights based on data from more than 9,200 entries in 128 competitions that were judged from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 by 2,942 judges. A full infographic outlining the results of the study can be found [here](#).

“Increasingly, and encouragingly, women all over the world are stepping up to the plate and hitting home runs with innovative ideas that are attracting attention from the business and investment communities,” said Rebeca Hwang, co-founder of Rivet Ventures and co-founder of YouNoodle. “YN1Kwomen is shedding light on the profile of these women and has given them a more powerful voice in the global entrepreneurial ecosystem.”

Some of the key findings for the YN1Kwomen cohort (illustrated in the infographic) include:

- **Asian and North American women are winning:** While the overall population for YN1Kwomen is global, Asian and North American women fared better. South American women, however, were underrepresented in this group.
- **Don't fret if you don't have funding:** While having funding helps increase the chances of being one of the YN1Kwomen startups, it is not a requirement.
- **Higher education gets you higher in the ranks:** It pays to be educated! 36% of YN1Kwomen held postgraduate degrees and very few high school students are in the cohort, highlighting the need for starting entrepreneurial education much earlier.
- **YN1Kwomen are young:** The average age for YN1Kwomen is 29. The youngest is 17 and the oldest is 67.

“A key objective at UP Global is to change the conversation and put more focus on how everyone can help empower the female entrepreneur,” said Marc Nager, CEO of [UP Global](#). “One of the best ways to help empower a community is through education. The more we know about the profile of the female early stage entrepreneur, the more programs and outreach we can create to help let her know that success is within reach,” continued Torsten Kolind, co-founder of YouNoodle.

Chosen through a series of queries from the YouNoodle database as well as contributions from the YouNoodle team, the data helps to uncover the demographic and marketplace makeup of some of the top female-founded startups in the world. It also raises awareness for the women behind the brightest and most innovative ideas. While the study does not include an entire list of the 1000 companies whose data was aggregated to uncover the findings, a number of stories about some of the most unique startups can be found on the YouNoodle website (<http://www.younoodle.com>) and will post regularly.

**About YouNoodle**

YouNoodle is a data-driven startup recruitment engine and customized end-to-end platform for the creation, management, and judging of startup competitions. Top universities, corporations, accelerators, as well as governments use YouNoodle's tools to host challenges and judging processes, recruit high-potential entrepreneurs, and grow their startup ecosystems. Having facilitated more than 400 international competitions across 100 countries, YouNoodle has created a global talent network of 50,000 startups and has become a premier resource for expanding access to the best ideas and brightest talent across the globe. Based in Silicon Valley with a team comprised of 10 different nationalities who speak 18 different languages, YouNoodle creates a local and global opportunity network that expands the borders of the startup landscape and equalizes opportunities for entrepreneurs worldwide.