YouNoodle Unveils YN1K a Study of the Top 1000 Early Stage Startups
4465 judges from 232 competitions picked their 1000 most promising startups of 2013
spreading across 5 continents and 72 different countries

San Francisco – March 19, 2014 – YouNoodle, a data-driven startup recruitment engine and customized end-to-end platform for the creation, management, and judging of startup competitions, today unveiled the results of the YN1K study. YN1K focuses on the top 1000 entrepreneurs and ideas emanating from YouNoodle driven startup contests worldwide and uses data from competitions to paint a picture of the global startup ecosystem. The insights are based on data from more than 17,500 entries in 232 competitions that were judged by 4,465 judges in 2013. A full infographic outlining the results of the study can be found here https://www.younoodle.com/yn1k/infographic#eng.

"Competitions serve as one of the earliest indicators of upcoming startups, and this is the largest study of its kind ever made," said Torsten Kolind, CEO of YouNoodle. "It is fascinating to peek at what trends, industries, and products young entrepreneurs are putting together across the world, before they really enter the startup ecosystem".

Some of the key findings for the YN1K cohort, illustrated in the infographic include:

- **The YN1K are young**: 29 years old on average, with the youngest being 18 and the oldest 75.
- **Women perform well:** 28% of the YN1K were women, roughly equivalent to the share of the total competition entrant population. This indicates that the gender bias observed in the venture ecosystem is not present at the competition stage.
- **Technology-based startups win:** Biotech, healthcare and science innovation were the leading industries in YN1K, outperforming social media and web apps.
- **Prototypes beat ideas:** There was a higher percentage of developed ideas that made it into the YN1K, which tells us that the farther you are from concept stage the higher the probability that your project will make the YN1K.

Chosen through a series of data 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 startups in the world. It also raises awareness for the people 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 weekly.

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.