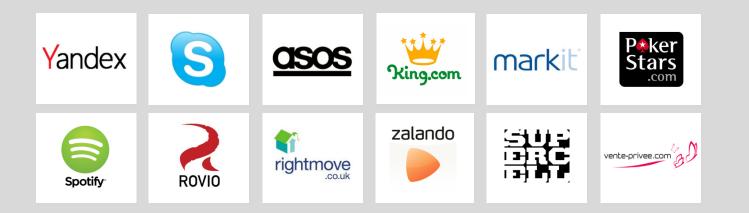


INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH EUROPEAN BILLION DOLLAR COMPANIES JUNE 2014



#### Can Europe Create Billion Dollar Tech Companies THE FACTS!



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- We have been inspired by the <u>excellent post on TechCrunch by Aileen Lee of Cowboy Ventures</u> about billion-dollar startups ("unicorns") created in the US since 2003, which generated substantial discussion on both sides of the Atlantic and spawned various attempts to create a more comprehensive list for both the US and Europe
- We crunched the data on the European billion-dollar companies founded since 2000, with the aim of analysing what it takes to create a European unicorn, and find any parallels and differences with the US analysis<sup>(1)(2)</sup>
- » Our methodology and sources:
  - > We have included:
    - > Tech companies only, with a bias towards internet/software (e.g. Telecoms and Cleantech are excluded)
    - > Companies falling into the following macro-sectors: eCommerce (e.g. sale of goods or services), Audience (e.g. monetisation through ads and lead gen), Software (e.g. license of software), Gaming (including gambling) and Fintech
    - > Headquartered in Europe<sup>(3)</sup>
    - > Founded in 2000 or later
    - With an equity valuation of \$1bn+ in the public or private markets
  - > First caveat: our sources include public data (e.g. press articles, blogs and industry rumours), and the accuracy of our dataset is limited to the disclosed data
  - > Second caveat: the analysis is based on data as at May 2014, which has obvious limitations related to, for example, the state of equity markets, recent company performance, etc.

<sup>1)</sup> When we reference US statistics we refer to the post by Cowboy ventures at the link above.

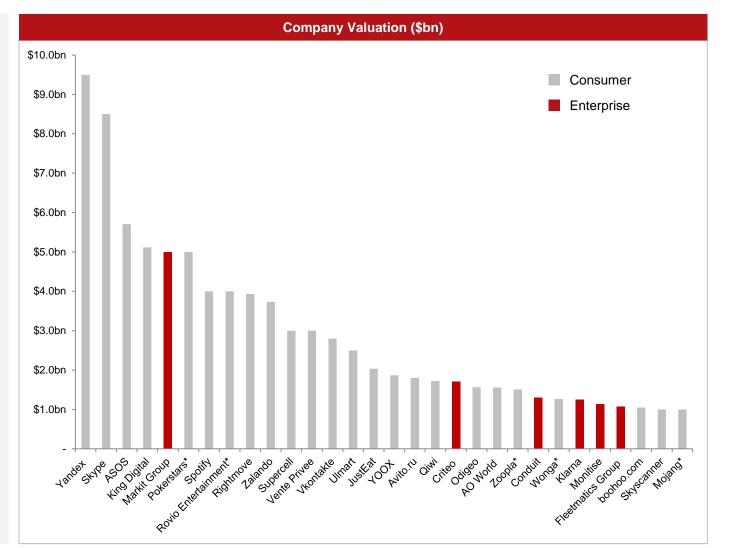
<sup>2)</sup> We have used a slightly longer timeframe than the US report in order to capture a large number of unicorns founded in 2000-2001.

<sup>3)</sup> Including Israel; and companies which relocated to the US pre-IPO or at a mature stage.



## **Europe CAN create HOMERUNS!**

- In the past European entrepreneurs » have been accused of not thinking big enough, and selling too early - this is not true, they have been able to create homeruns!
- We found 30 European companies » founded after January 2000 with a valuation of \$1bn+ as of April 2014
- This compares to 39 US unicorns in > the period from 2003 - 2013
- The average valuation is \$3bn (vs. » \$3.6bn in US)
- Statistically, it is very hard to build a » unicorn: this cohort represents c.0.27% of the number of comparable tech companies founded in the same period<sup>(1)</sup>
- Of the 30, six (20%) are enterprise-» focused businesses, while the rest address the consumer market
- This compares to 38% of enterprise > focused unicorns in the US



Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.

\*: Indicates valuation estimate based on press and rumours. LONDON | SAN FRANCISCO | STOCKHOLM | BERLIN | MANCHESTER

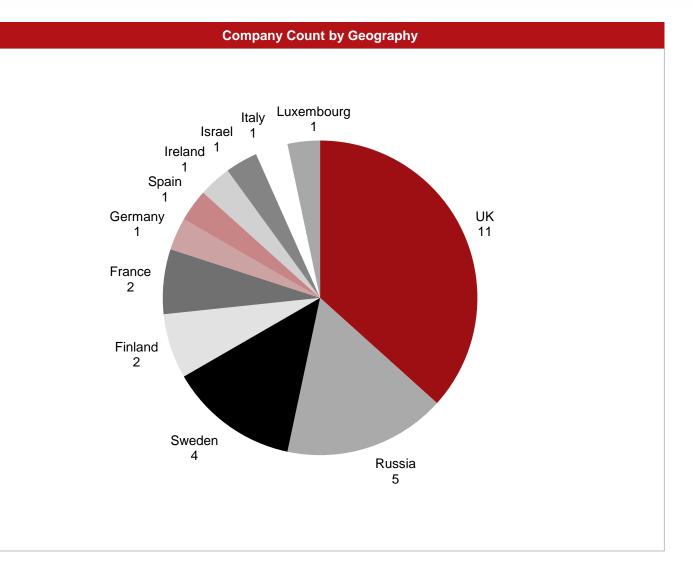
1) Statistic based on CapitalIQ data.

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## Hunt in the RAIN or in the DARK

- The UK has the largest share of Unicorns with 11 total count, followed by Nordics at six (Finland plus Sweden) and Russia at five
- The vast majority come from the UK, where there is a sizeable domestic market and technology adoption is very high
- The unicorns from the Nordics have been able to become very valuable mostly through international growth
- » Russia's high number of unicorns is partly thanks to a large domestic market



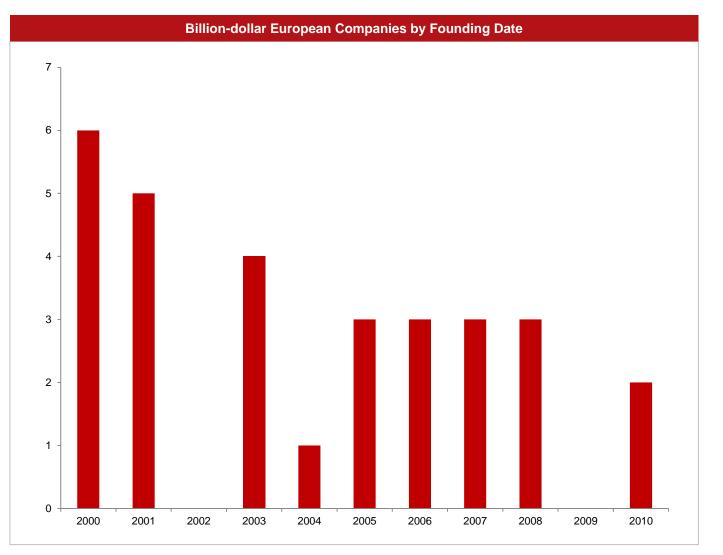
Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.

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#### Unicorns are RARE...



- On average, three unicorns are born per year in Europe (vs. four p.a. in US)
- In contrast to the US list, the European billion-dollar club is front-end loaded, suggesting it takes more time to achieve high valuations
- Half the unicorns were founded between 2000 and 2003
- 2000 and 2001 were the most prolific years, with over a third of the total founded
- No unicorns have been founded from 2011 to date...yet



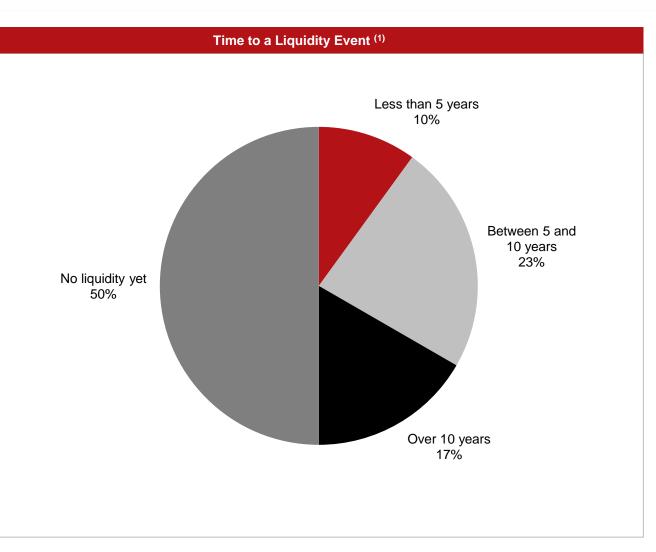
Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.

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## ...and it takes TIME



- Only half of the European unicorns have reached a liquidity event (defined as sale or IPO)
  - This compares to circa two thirds in the US, pointing to a more challenging exit environment
  - Furthermore, the vast majority (13 / 15) of liquidity events have been IPOs, suggesting that a full exit for the founders and early investors is in reality later than the headline stats suggest
- The two M&A transactions have been Skype (\$8.5bn) and Supercell (\$3.0bn)
- Time to a liquidity event is long, eight years on average (vs. seven in the US)<sup>(1)</sup>
  - Consumer companies take longer (8.5 years) in comparison to enterprise (6.7 years) to reach liquidity

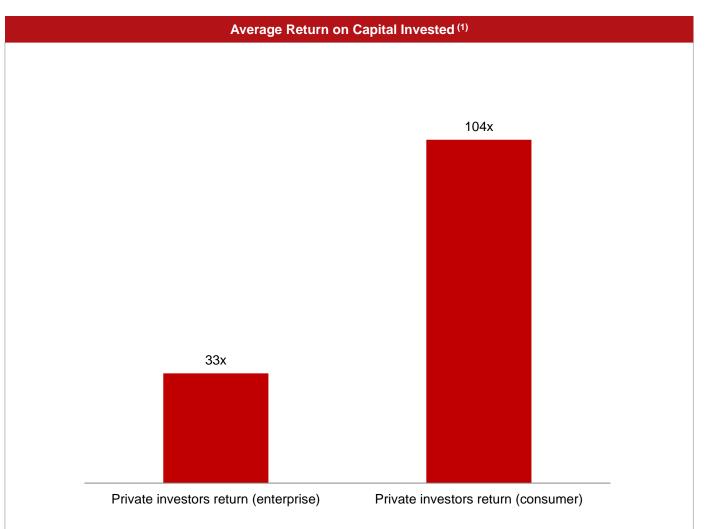


Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis. 1) Statistics exclude ASOS, which listed on the UK AIM market at an early stage.



## Focus on the Consumer: Average return on capital invested

- These exceptional companies generate exceptional rewards for entrepreneurs and investors
- Consumer unicorns have generated on average a higher return on capital than enterprise<sup>(1)</sup>
- Consumer companies are worth 104x the private investment on average, vs. 33x for enterprise
- The opposite has been found for US unicorns, with enterprise generating higher return per dollar invested
- The range of returns in the dataset is wide: the minimum multiple of capital invested (for a young unicorn which has not yet reached a liquidity event) is 4.5x, and the maximum is 425.0x



Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.

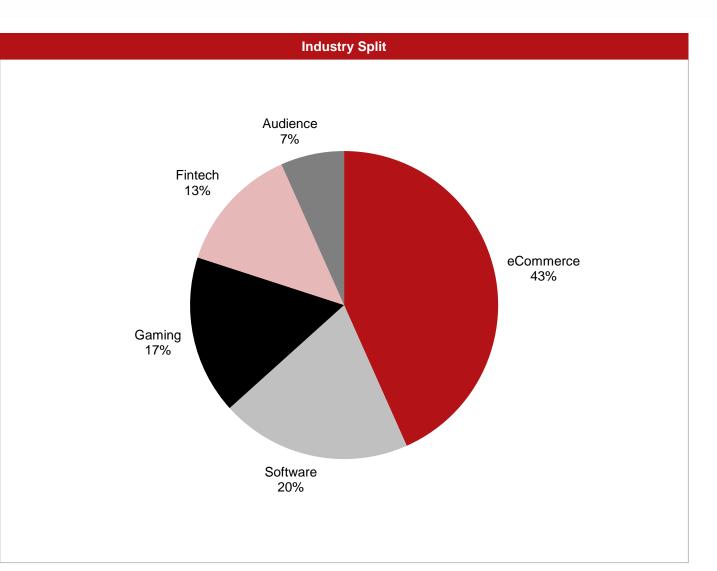
1) Represents equity valuation as a multiple of investment received. Based on disclosed data, it represents an indication of value created as opposed to actual returns for investors.

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## Online shopping has the largest share

- The majority of European unicorns fall in the eCommerce sector, with a strong representation in apparel, private sales and marketplaces
- The software sector includes mostly B2B companies (four out of six)
- Of the five gaming companies, only one was not founded in the Nordics (PokerStars)
- Two of the four unicorns in financial technology are UK based: Wonga and Monitise
- » Audience businesses are under represented vs. the US, with only two unicorns in Europe (7%), vs. 28% in the US



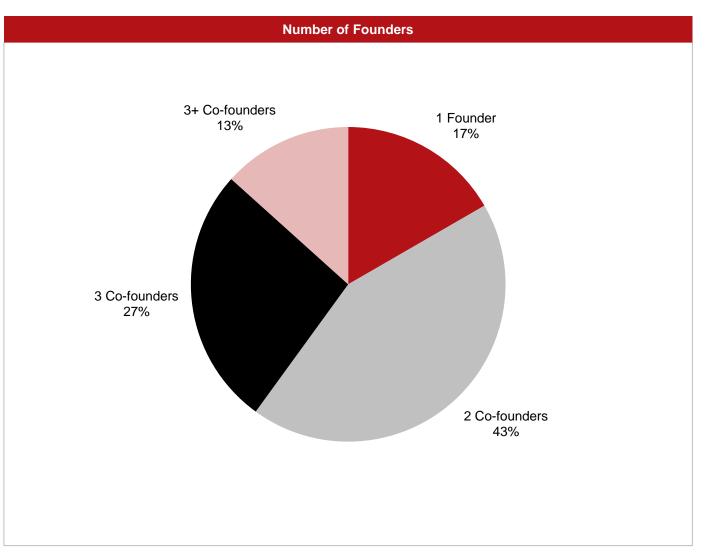
Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.



## Hunt in PACKS



- » Most entrepreneurs who built unicorns work in pairs, but teams of three are also popular
- » Solo flyers and large groups of founders are comparatively rare

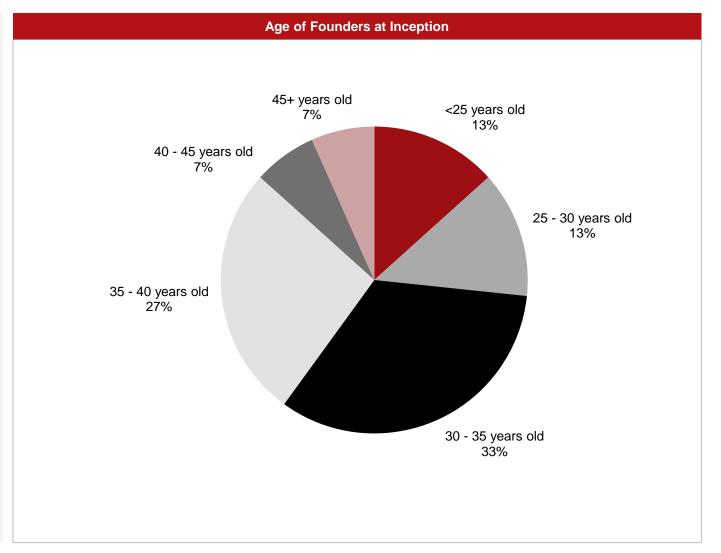


Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.



# Start in your 30s and keep hold of your founding team

- The companies in our list, similarly to the US list, were in most cases not founded by inexperienced entrepreneurs
- The average age of founders is 33, consistent with 34 in the US
- » 60% of unicorns have been founded by entrepreneurs in their 30s
- The average age for enterprise unicorn founders, at 34, is just slightly higher than for consumer ones



Source: Company data, Capital IQ, Mergermarket, press articles, GP Bullhound analysis.

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## GP Bullhound in the center of the technology ecosystem

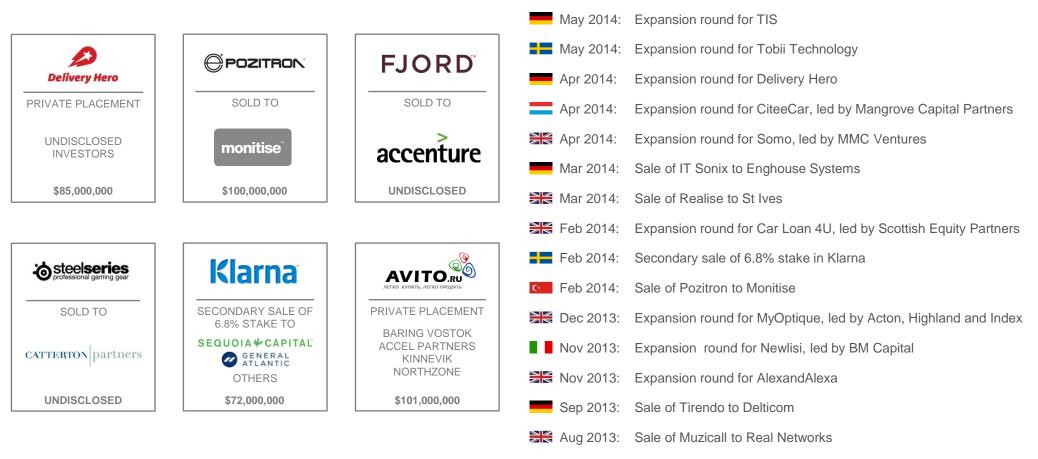




## Successful track record with leading entrepreneurs and investors

**Recent Deal Announcements** 

#### **Marquee Transactions**



Jul 2013: Expansion round for PlayOn! Sports led by Herff Jones



### The GP Bullhound Team





#### Summary



#### AWARD WINNING INVESTMENT BANK

EALMAKER OF THE YEAR 40 UNDER 40 AWARD					
EADING ADVISERS OF THE YEAR					
OUTIQUE INVESTMENT BANK OF THE YEAR - UK					
ORPORATE FINANCE BOUTIQUE OF THE YEAR					
EAL OF THE YEAR & RUNNER-UP DEAL OF THE YEAR					
&A BOUTIQUE INVESTMENT BANK OF THE YEAR & N ENERGY DEAL OF THE YEAR					

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