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22 February 2021

Upper Thames Holdings plc

(“Upper Thames” or the “Company”)

Blockchain Global Expert Vinay Gupta Chairs Upper Thames Advisory Committee

London quoted Upper Thames Holdings plc (AQSE: UPPT) announces today that Mr Vinay Gupta, a leading global figure in the blockchain sector, has joined the Company, in a non-board capacity, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee with immediate effect.

Vinay Gupta is a specialist in the blockchain space. He co-ordinated the release of the Ethereum blockchain platform in July 2015 and was the strategic architect for ConsenSys Systems, a technology hub focusing on the Ethereum blockchain and its related applications.

Richard Poulden, Upper Thames’ Chairman, commented; “Vinay is a frontier leading and globally recognised name in the blockchain, cryptocurrency and bitcoin sectors. His achievements have helped transform and shape the future of this fast growing and unstoppable new technology. The Company is extremely fortunate to have Vinay join as Chairman of the Advisory committee, and his skills and expertise will help guide Upper Thames’s strategy to quickly create a significant global business. Upper Thames plans to add other leaders in this field to create a team capable of assisting with this objective.”

Vinay Gupta commented; “As the journey begins towards integrating fully regulated financial instruments into the blockchain ecosystem, the depth of experience in the Upper Thames team will deliver a decisive advantage and the clear leadership required to shape the next phase of its evolution. The defi (“decentralized finance”) revolution has radically shifted the blockchain paradigm in the past year and paved the way for a much deeper integration into the real world, as can be evidenced by the recent news that Tesla have acquired US\$1.5 billion of bitcoin. As the enormous success of recent blockchain stablecoin projects has demonstrated, the blockchain space needs the real world just as much as the real world needs the blockchain. Upper Thames is very well positioned to build vital infrastructure for the future of integrated global trade.”

Upper Thames recently announced a move towards an exciting future into the global Blockchain sector, with the aim of linking of conventional, mainstream currency products denominated in, for example USD and GBP, into the world of crypto currencies. The linking of the two ecosystems rather than seeing them as competition opens up a range of new and diverse global opportunities. Proposed products will cover concepts such as the trading of USD or GBP securities on crypto exchanges and the trading of physical property on blockchain structures.



Vinay Gupta in London

Vinay was one of the architects of Dubai's National Blockchain Strategy and is the Blockchain Fellow for Digital Catapult, a UK Government-funded initiative to increase innovation in the sector. His blockchain efforts and achievements have been widely reported on and even written up in Forbes.

He is also the CEO and founder of Mattereum (<https://mattereum.com>), a London-based, VC-backed technology start-up, creating digital identities for the world of physical goods. The Mattereum Asset Passport uses blockchain technology to help buyers, sellers, and experts work together to create a doubt-free environment for trade in luxury goods, art & antiques, and other items where authenticity means everything.

In addition to his achievements above, he has been involved in commercial software development since 1992, with long stints in energy policy and defence think tanks, and his experience as a programmer and visionary has covered fields as diverse as medical imaging, flight simulation, cryptographic applications, and the web, as well as energy policy, disaster relief, and grand strategy for poverty alleviation.

A Renaissance man and futurist interested in the technological transformation of society and commerce, Vinay has a strong track record of thought leadership in environmental and infrastructure risk, failing states, energy policy (with five years at the Rocky Mountain Institute) and disaster management.

He was on the editorial team of *"Small is Profitable"*, the winner of the 2003 Economist Book of the Year, and has contributed to US Department of Defence research, advised Arup on urban resilience and was Associate Fellow at the UCL Institute for Security and Resilience.

He has long had a humanitarian concern, with the condition of the poorest in society and disaster relief. He invented the cheap, simple, non-patented and open source Hexayurt refugee shelter, which has gone on to become iconic in the Burning Man counterculture. In his techno-realist view,

technology, and engineering, including blockchain, can contribute to positive social and commercial transformation and help deal with resource scarcity.

The Directors of the Company accept responsibility for the contents of this announcement.

END

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