**For Immediate Release
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**Hermann Hauser Announced as Patron of New Cambridge Computer Museum**

**Cambridge, UK - Cambridge based serial entrepreneur and venture capitalist,** **Dr Hermann Hauser has been named as the patron of the Centre for Computing History.**

A leading figure in the worlds of technology, science and business, Dr Hauser has agreed to take on this important role 30 years after the company he co-founded - Acorn Computers - unveiled the BBC Micro, the machine which, along with the Sinclair ZX Spectrum, epitomised the British home computer boom of the early 1980s. The BBC Micro ultimately changed the history of computing in the UK by bringing home computing within reach of the general population. In 1984 he was voted the UK's 'Computer Personality of the Year'.

In the late 1980s Acorn went on to develop the ARM processor forerunner of the processors still manufactured by ARM Holdings and found in 95% of today’s mobile phones. Since then Hermann has been responsible for setting-up numerous technology companies and in 1997 co-founded Amadeus Capital Partners Ltd, a venture capital company. During his career he developed strong links with Cambridge, and has played a big part in the city’s enterprise culture.

The Centre for Computing History was established in 2006 to tell the story of the Information Age. The museum is on course to open in Cambridge next spring.

Jason Fitzpatrick, Director of the Centre for Computing History says: “I am delighted to announce Hermann Hauser as our patron and view his involvement as an endorsement of our aims. Widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of Silicon Fen and the Cambridge Phenomenon, Hermann’s contribution within the computing sphere and his ensuing career are considered exceptional. As a figurehead for our organization, his invaluable participation cements our progress to date, enriches our vision beyond measure and gives us a new, dazzling focal point.

Dr Lisa McGerty, one of the centre’s trustees adds: “The trustees and I are deeply gratified that Dr Hauser has accepted our invitation to become the patron of the Centre for Computing History. His enthusiasm for the museum has been evident and taking on this role will deepen his connection with us even further. We are truly delighted that he shares an interest in our goals and vision and very much look forward to working with him in the future.”

Dr Hermann Hauser states: “It gives me great pleasure to accept the role of patron. I am fully committed to this initiative to found a computer museum in Cambridge. This area is at the heart of the UK's, if not Europe's, leading technology cluster. As such the city has played – and continues to play - a vital role in the history of computing.

“In addition to celebrating Britain’s outstanding track record in computing innovation, the centre will showcase computing technology and enterprise in the Cambridge region. It will explore the radical and far-reaching impact of technological discovery and invention to spring from Cambridge University and local companies.

“We all recognise that computers have transformed the world we live in. To enable coming generations to understand how it has all happened there has never been a more appropriate moment for a museum of this nature. I hope it will create an experience where young people can truly engage with technology and act as a
catalyst for emerging talent**.”**

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Jason Fitzpatrick continues: “The story of the Information Age and of all the engineers, innovators, inventors and creative visionaries who made it happen is inspirational. The impact of Steve Jobs’ death demonstrates how fascinated people are in the history of personal computing. There is widespread public recognition that, in terms of technology, pioneers like Jobs literally invented the 21st century.

“Moving to Cambridge, the city where so much of this story has unfolded, will allow all our dreams and ambitions for the centre to be realised, to create a world class space with the size and scope for the serious celebration of Computing History in this country. Hermann’s involvement as patron will make all the difference to increasing the pace of what’s possible.”

The campaign to relocate the museum from its temporary home in Suffolk to Cambridge has already attracted substantial sponsorship from a number of individuals and several high profile Cambridge tech businesses, including super-chip designer ARM Holdings, Microsoft Research and award winning Red Gate Software.

The centre’s move to Cambridge will facilitate the next stage of the project. This will involve the development of both a highly ambitious learning programme for schools and a multi-dimensional ‘computing experience’ exhibition, prior to the eventual creation of a permanent, purpose built home in the city.

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**Photograph left to right: Director - Jason Fitzpatrick, Trustee – Dr Lisa McGerty, Patron - Dr Hermann Hauser, Trustee - Peter Robson.**

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Notes for Editors
**Dr Hermann Hauser CBE**Serial entrepreneur and co-founder of Amadeus Capital Partners, Dr Hermann Hauser CBE has wide experience in developing and financing companies in the information technology sector. He co-founded the Acorn Computer Group plc and subsequently became vice president of research at Olivetti. During his tenure at Olivetti, he established a global network of research laboratories.

Since leaving Olivetti, Hermann has founded over 20 technology companies. In 1997, he co-founded Amadeus Capital Partners, a VC which invests in technology companies including communications and networking hardware and software, media, ecommerce, as well as biotech and cleantech.

Hermann holds an MA in Physics from Vienna University and a PhD in Physics from the Cavendish Laboratory at King's College, Cambridge. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and of the Royal Academy of Engineering and an Honorary Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. In 2001 he was awarded an Honorary CBE for ‘innovative

service to the UK enterprise sector’. In 2004 he was made a member of the Government’s Council for Science and Technology and in 2009 took over the Chair of the East of England Stem Cell Network (EESCN) and became a member of the Government advisory panel for New Industry/New Jobs.

**BBC Micro**The BBC Micro was designed and manufactured by Acorn - initially called Cambridge Processor Unit (CPU) - a Cambridge-based computer company founded by Chris Curry and Herman Hauser in 1978. The BBC Micro,

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launched in 1981, was aimed at home enthusiasts rather than business and was hugely influential. It gave young programmers their first taste of coding and fuelled a generation of emerging talent.

The BBC Micro was the catalyst for a small but important industry of spin-offs, as many as 100 in its Cambridge heartland alone. A significant number of the companies based in and around the Cambridge Science Park were founded by people whose introduction to technology came through the BBC Micro. In June 1987, Acorn released the Archimedes, a desktop computer based on its own ARM2 processor. Today ARM is famous as the company that invented the low-power processors used inside Smartphones such as the iPhone.

**Centre for Computing History**
Established in 2006 to create a permanent, public exhibition that tells the story of the Information Age, the centre presents an internationally significant collection of vintage computers, memorabilia, artefacts and associated documents. Tracing the social, historical and contemporary impact of the computer, the centre turns a spotlight on the people, inventions and machines that have played key roles in this story and records the information necessary to inspire and enthuse future generations. The centre regularly exhibits at venues around the country and has worked with organisations as diverse as the BBC, Open University and the Gadget Show Live. Aimed at everyone from children to academics, an inventive multimedia approach allows visitors to interact with many key machines, thereby providing a hugely entertaining experience. With over 14,000 items and a website that currently attracts 20,000 visitors a month the centre enjoys a robust reputation as an international educational resource.

Computers have revolutionised the way we live and work. They have touched practically every aspect of our lives – including medicine – and changed things for ever. Rapid global communications now shape modern culture and society. However, the fast-paced nature of the computing industry along with our tendency to discard irrelevant technology as it becomes outdated creates the risk that a sense of its origins will be lost. The centre’s aim is to preserve this fundamental part of our history - as it continues to happen - and keep it alive.

The Centre for Computing History is recognised as a charitable trust No: 1130071.

**Cambridge is the natural home for The Centre for Computing History in the UK.
The Cambridge Heritage: A Snapshot**1812: Charles Babbage - originated the concept of a programmable computer with his first ideas for a calculating machine.
1897: J J Thomson - discovered the electron in 1897 at the University's Cavendish Laboratory setting the foundation for modern physics, electronics and computer technology.
1934: Alan Turing - graduated from King's College, Cambridge. Turing was a founder of computer science and cryptographer, whose work at Bletchley Park was key to breaking the wartime Enigma codes.
1949: Maurice Wilkes - developed the EDSAC, the first stored program digital computer. This and the EDSAC2 underpinned computer research and are central to computer science.
1978: Roger Needham - awarded a BCS Technical Award for the CAP (Capability Protection) Project.
1980: Andy Hopper - working with Maurice Wilkes developed the Cambridge Fast Ring, a pioneering computer network that would later form the basis of broadband Internet.

**The Cambridge Legacy: Home Computing**Two seminal Cambridge companies were Acorn Computers and Sinclair Computers. Sir Clive Sinclair brought computers to the masses with his affordable ZX80, ZX81 and Spectrum computers. Acorn, founded by Chris Curry and Hermann Hauser, developed a ‘dream machine’ that would be adopted by schools up and down the country: the much loved BBC Micro. Acorn has long gone but its legacy, the ARM processor, dominates the

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mobile computing market with processors in over 95% of today’s mobile phones.

**The Cambridge Phenomenon**: **Silicon Fen**The region continues to embrace a large cluster of high-technology companies (computing, biotechnology, electronics and software) many of which have direct and indirect links with the University of Cambridge. An area of intense innovation activity, it is considered one of the most important technology centres in Europe.

**Corporate Sponsors
Red Gate Software**Neil Davidson, joint CEO of Red Gate stated: "I, and many people at Red Gate, have an enormous personal debt to the UK computer industry of the 1980s. We cut our teeth on BBC Micros and Sinclair Spectrums: they made us who we are. This is one way of saying thank you, and of making sure that we celebrate the future and not just the past of Cambridge’s role in computing history.”

Red Gate Software Limited is a software technology company specializing in database development tools for developers, SysAdmins and DBAs working with Microsoft technologies. The company counts Microsoft, HP, Sage, Bank of America, AT&T, The US Treasury, and over 95,000 other leading organizations among its customers. Founded by Neil Davidson and Simon Galbraith, Red Gate was set up in Cambridge in 1999, and was ranked 16th fastest growing technology company in the UK by the Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 Awards for 2006. It currently employs more than 150 people and regularly appears in The Sunday Times Top 100 Best Small Companies to Work For List.

The name 'Red Gate' derives from the Via Porta Rossa (Red Gate Street) in Florence, Italy, close to where Leonardo Da Vinci invented the database in 1512. [www.red-gate.com](http://www.red-gate.com)

**Microsoft Research**Microsoft Research Cambridge was set up in July 1997 with three researchers. Today over 100 researchers, mostly from Europe, are engaged in computer research at the lab. The company states that Cambridge was the clear choice for the location of the facility because of its world-renowned reputation and its rich history as a centre of learning.

Ken Wood - Deputy Managing Director of Microsoft Research said: "Microsoft Research Ltd is delighted to sponsor the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. Many of the instrumental developments in computing technology have their roots in Cambridge, and we are proud to contribute to the wider appreciation of the history of what is now an important aspect of everyone’s daily life.”

**ARM**ARM Holdings is the world's leading semiconductor intellectual property (IP) supplier and as such is at the heart of the development of digital electronic products. Headquartered in Cambridge, UK, and employing over 1700 people, ARM has offices around the world, including design centres in France, India, Sweden and the US.

ARM designs the technology that lies at the heart of advanced digital products, from wireless, networking and consumer entertainment solutions to imaging, automotive, security and storage devices.

Today ARM technology is used in more than 95% of the world’s mobile handsets and over one-quarter of all electronic devices. [www.arm.com](http://www.arm.com)