



## PRESS RELEASE

*Amsterdam / Ballerup, 24 April 2019*

### **SPECIALISTERNE AND BRUNEL ENABLE AUTISTIC PEOPLE TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE.**



*Thorkil Sonne (Chairman & Founder Specialisterne Foundation) & Jilko Andringa (CEO Brunel International)*

#### **Summary:**

- **Brunel and Specialisterne established a global partnership.**
- **Goal of the partnership is to collaborate for the inclusion of autistic and neurodiverse people in the labour market.**
- **Specialisterne and Brunel will focus their partnership on sharing knowledge, generating awareness and eventually include autistic and neurodiverse people in the workforce where possible.**
- **Both organisations aim to enable people who want to work to join the workforce and unlock their potential.**

***Amsterdam/Ballerup, 24 April 2019 - Brunel International and Specialisterne Foundation established a joint global partnership to collaborate on the inclusion of autistic and neurodiverse people in the labour market. Specialisterne and Brunel will use their own unique expertise and knowledge to promote the advantages of autism in the workforce and include this group of untapped talented people in the workplace.***

Too often people with Autism are seen as people with apparent weaknesses. However, these unique characteristics can also be marketable strengths. They often have skills that are very valuable in the labour market. For example, an outstanding memory or a remarkable eye for details. Given a welcoming and quiet environment, their dedication, honesty and new viewpoints can act as a catalyst for a diverse workforce that can improve innovation and resilience.



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Thorkil Sonne (Chairman & Founder Specialisterne Foundation):

*“Brunel and Specialisterne are a perfect match. By combining our skill set, network and experience, we can enable many autistic people to find decent jobs and help grow companies. Together, we can make people realize their potential in a welcoming environment.”*

Brunel and the Specialisterne Foundation think there are many opportunities to create a more positive attitude towards autistic people in the labour market. To achieve this goal, Specialisterne and Brunel will focus their partnership on sharing knowledge, generating awareness and eventually include autistic and neurodiverse people in the workforce where possible.

Jilko Andringa (CEO Brunel International):

*“Every individual has talents and I’m excited Brunel will start a partnership with Specialisterne that can help reach our shared goals of enabling work for everyone. I believe that we can connect our capabilities and expertise to reach this goal. Our Brunel colleagues also think this is important and it gives them satisfaction using the knowledge we have as Brunel to help create a more inclusive labour market for people with Autism in the countries where we operate. The partnership of Specialisterne and Brunel supports the UN Sustainable Goal 8 ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth’.”*

One of Brunel’s missions is ‘to help create a better future for professionals and a better planet for future professionals’. In addition, that fully supports the goals of Specialisterne ‘Increase awareness in society of the positive contributions of autistic people’. Brunel and Specialisterne both believe work is an important part of well-being and purpose in life. Enabling people who want to work to enter the workforce is something that both organisations find is a core aspect of their culture.

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### Note to the press- Not for publication:

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**Specialisterne Foundation** is a not-for-profit foundation that believes in empowering autistic people to realize themselves through meaningful employment. Our mission is to be the catalyst for change and make it attractive and easy to join the global movement of inclusion of autistic people as leaders or

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followers. We have proven our case since 2004 in 20 countries leading to 10.000 jobs directly through Specialisterne entities or indirectly through followers, clients and partners. Our goal is set to generate one million jobs by 2030. Specialisterne Foundation creates hope around the world by arranging Autism Advantage Luncheons in collaboration with United Nations and promoting Sustainable Development Goal 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'. More information: [www.specialisternefoundation.com/](http://www.specialisternefoundation.com/)

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