

**PIONEERS'18**  
MAY 24 & 25  
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**Media Release**

## **Video Game Streaming King At Pioneers'18**

*Emmett Shear to Speak at Flagship Event*

**Vienna, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - The latest star to join the line-up of speakers at Pioneers'18 is Emmett Shear, the man who founded Twitch.tv, the world's top live-streaming platform for eSports and video gamers. He still heads up the company after selling it to Amazon for almost a billion Dollars in 2014. He'll also be representing leading Silicon Valley accelerator Y Combinator at our flagship event, which takes place in Vienna on May 24th-25th.**

As a serial internet entrepreneur, Shear will grip the audience at the Hofburg with his broad insights around opportunities in the digital space. Specifically, he'll reveal more about the massive industry around live streaming of eSports (the streaming of competitive video game contests), for which he has built up a platform that now attracts close to ten million visitors per day.

Having co-founded all-round video streaming site Justin.tv in 2006, the phenomenal growth of interest in the video gaming section led Shear to spin off Twitch.tv, which would be dedicated to the general video game streaming and eSports market, in 2011. This in turn proved such a worthy business that it was acquired by Amazon for a reported \$970m in the summer of 2014.

Shear remains CEO of the Twitch.tv, which continues to prove high levels of interest and opportunity around streaming in the video game community. Gamers like to watch each other game as much as other people like to watch football, and Twitch.tv is dominating that online broadcast market. It even features live audio commentary and studio analysis similar to those of traditional sports broadcasts.

With Twitch.tv an alumnus of Y Combinator, the links between Shear and the famed American accelerator are strong. He'll thus bring a broad investment perspective from Silicon Valley to the stage and networking areas in Vienna.

We're pleased to welcome another Y Combinator representative, especially since Stromkind, the winner of last year's Pioneers Challenge Award, won the chance to meet with 'YC'S' CEO Michael Seibel in California as part of their prize.

- Ends -



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### Note to the Editors

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### About Pioneers:

Founded in 2009 in Vienna, Pioneers establishes and facilitates direct, meaningful business relationships between startups, corporate executives, and investors to foster growth and innovation. It is the ultimate One-Stop-Hub for global tech innovators to access high-value, curated and qualified data of early and Series A European startups. Pioneers offers various platforms to help redefine industries, develop future technologies and introduce cutting-edge solutions. Its services include digital services, consultancy, ventures services, events and inspirational, tailor-made offline experiences. Its flagship event takes place annually in the 500-year-old Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna and brings together a community of 2,500 founders, investors, executives and public sector representatives from over 100 nations. Of all future tech events globally, Pioneers has unparalleled access to European tech leaders. The 2017 edition was awarded with the bea World 'Best Conference/Congress' Award.

### About Twitch:

Twitch is the world's leading social video service and community for gamers. Each day, millions of community members gather to watch, talk, and chat about shared interests. Twitch's video service is the backbone of both live and on-demand distribution for all types of content, including the entire video game ecosystem, the creative arts, vlogging (IRL), and more. Twitch also runs TwitchCon, the annual convention for celebrating the Twitch community. For more information about Twitch, visit our Press Center, Twitter feed (#twitch), and Blog. Emmett Shear is the founder and CEO of Twitch, the world's leading social video service and community for gamers and creators. Emmett is also a part-time partner at venture capital firm Y Combinator, where he advises fledgling startups on product and strategy. Prior to launching Twitch in 2011, Emmett co-founded its Justin.tv predecessor in 2007. Emmett graduated from Yale University in 2005 with a degree in computer science and in 2012 was included in Forbes Magazine's annual 30 under 30 list. In 2007, Justin.tv launched based on filming Justin Kan's life 24/7 and ushered in the 'life casting' trend. Since a lot of a person's day is spent sleeping and eating, the novelty eventually wore off and viewers expressed interest in broadcasting on JTV too. JTV then opened the platform up to everyone. One area they didn't expect to grow so fast organically was the broadcasting of video game content. Emmett Shear, one of JTV's founders, was a big fan of this gaming content (especially StarCraft II) and suggested if they met some benchmarks, they should spin gaming off into its own platform. They easily surpassed these benchmarks which led to the launch of Twitch in 2011 with Emmett as CEO."

