

Press Release

EARLYBIRD LEADS USD 9 MILLION SERIES A FOR PREMIUM AUDIO PLATFORM CURIO

- Curio's app curates content from top-tier publications like The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, WIRED, and Financial Times
- The investment will bring new and enhanced features while scaling content production and partnerships
- A world-class team involves BBC, Sony, Twitter, and Skype alumni

Berlin/London, September 10, 2020 – [Curio](#), the premium audio platform with a curated library of expert journalism, has closed a USD 9 million Series A round led by Earlybird. Draper Esprit, Cherry Ventures, and Horizons Ventures also took part in the investment. Before the Series A, Curio raised USD 2 million, led by Cherry Ventures, with the participation of 500 Startups and private angel investors, bringing the total amount raised to USD 11 million to date.

Curio plans to use the investment to strengthen its position in the US and UK markets, while expanding to other anglophone parts of the world including India, Australia, and South Africa. Co-produced series and guest curation are also in the pipeline, alongside AI-led personalisation and commissioning based on over 2 million monthly data points.

The subscription app is entirely ad-free and updated daily with the most outstanding stories from over 50 leading publications, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, and Financial Times, as well as specialised content from WIRED, MIT Technology Review, Foreign Policy and Aeon.

Govind Balakrishnan, an ex-BBC strategist, and Srikant Chakravarti, a former solicitor, founded Curio in London in 2016. Last year its users played over 18 million minutes of audio on the app; Apple featured it on its Keynote launch event, and Curio was named the App of the Year by Google. In 2020, Curio has already been featured over 220 times on the App Store worldwide.

"We want to help everyone become wiser, empathetic, and fulfilled. I believe learning about ideas and insights shaping our future, and stories that move us can do exactly that," said Govind Balakrishnan, Curio co-founder and CEO. "I'd never have imagined when growing up in India and listening to the BBC on shortwave radio, that I'd one day work there, let alone found a startup that is building the future of screenless media and empowering publishers in the process."

Focusing on audio rather than screen time, Curio provides an opportunity for people to learn in real-time from current world events through trusted, high-quality stories from top-tier and specialist publications. Curated to provide insights and coverage on essential topics that impact our present and the future, Curio gives voice to the top analysts and thinkers of our time.

"Audio offers us a unique way of engaging deeply with quality content. And on Curio, that quality consists of the best journalism and expert stories – including opinions, analyses, investigations - designed to help us all learn from the real world," said Srikant Chakravarti, Curio co-founder and COO. "We have also developed a mix of curation and machine learning personalisation. With this combination, we believe that Curio can revolutionise how we all consume media and relate to it."

Fabian Heilemann, partner at Earlybird, will be joining Curio's board. "Over the last five years, a boom of new technology brought exponential growth to the audio industry, impacting how media is consumed and produced. We, at Earlybird, share Curio's vision of disrupting modern journalism through curated audio formats, and I am very excited to join the board. Being an early investor in the crowd-publishing platform Inkitt and a former consumer-tech entrepreneur myself, I am proud to support the exceptional team at Curio in scaling internationally", said Fabian.

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About Earlybird

Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused on European technology companies. Founded in 1997, Earlybird invests in all growth and development phases of a company. Amongst the most experienced venture investors in Europe, Earlybird offers its portfolio companies not only financial resources, but also strategic and operational support as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird manages different funds with a focus on digital technologies in Eastern and Western Europe as well as healthcare technologies. With over EUR 1.5 billion under management, seven IPOs and 26 trade sales, Earlybird is one of the most successful venture capital firms in Europe.

For further information: www.earlybird.com, Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EarlybirdVC](https://twitter.com/EarlybirdVC), LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/earlybird-venture-capital or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EarlybirdVC>

About Curio

Govind Balakrishnan and Srikant Chakravarti founded Curio to change the way people get insights on critical topics, learn new ideas, and grow. Curio is a premium audio platform with a curated library of expert journalism.

The concept was born while Govind was working at the BBC. He noticed that exceptionally written pieces were getting lost into endless feeds of unorganised content. The world was not lacking compelling stories nor insights; it needed a more straightforward and engaging way for people to discover them. So, in 2016, Curio was born, helping people to learn in real-time from current world events through trusted, high-quality audio stories from top-tier and specialist publications.

The app is free to download and offers monthly and yearly subscriptions, priced at £5.99/month and £44.99/year for those wishing to gain unlimited access to the content library and listen to unlimited stories. To learn more about Curio, visit www.curio.io

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