How to get into a startup accelerator — Part I

A multi-part mini guide for startup founders who are planning to apply for a startup accelerator.

These insights are based on my personal experience as an evaluator and advisor at NUMA: the top early-stage startup accelerator in France.

Why you should join a startup accelerator

For startups, accelerators provide a head start for the long marathon towards building a successful business.

The value of this experience is multi-layered: learn from industry experts, get privileged access to clients, reduce administrative expenses, maintain morale through peer support, boost acquisition through media coverage, attract better human resources,

secure initial capital, gain credibility in the eyes of investors and be guided in critical choices.

What a startup accelerator does is time compression.

It allows you to shorten the learning cycle to the extreme, reduce distractions and increase serendipity. The details of how this happens would warrant a separate article, so let's assume that you're already sold on the idea.

Now, how do you actually get into a startup accelerator?

Prerequisites

Your current state is a determining factor in whether you can or even should get into an accelerator, here are the requirements.

Have a minimum viable team

Finding cofounders and key team members can take a while, but accelerators are not meant for this task.

At NUMA, we've seen many well-meaning entrepreneurs with great potential completely stuck with their project simply because no one could execute on decisions or burned out from carrying too much responsibility on their own.

You need to make the most out of your few months of acceleration: spending it all on finding a partner or recruitment is a waste of resources both for you and the accelerator.

Most programs don't accept solo founders or incomplete teams. Exceptions are rare, so without this prerequisite the risk of getting refused is high.

If you're solo, take this as your first challenge: convince someone that you're an excellent business partner and that your project has great potential. If you can't do that, how will you persuade your customers?

Make sure you can afford it

Even though most accelerators programs provide some initial funding, it doesn't automatically mean that you or your cofounders can afford it. Accelerating a startup is a full-time, energy-intensive activity that will most likely change your habits and impact your lifestyle.

You want to make sure you can free yourself from other responsibilities or delegate them, that your friends and family understand and support you and that you have a viable exit plan if your startup adventure comes to an abrupt end.

Regarding this last point, some successful founders could argue that when you don't have a viable exit plan giving up is not an option and that success stems from perseverance. If you are of the same persuasion you should at least consider survival bias.

Many accelerators require your physical presence on-site because of the great value provided by the peer community: consider the implications and costs of moving away from your current location.

Be coachable

Over the years we've seen experienced entrepreneurs do great at their written application only to fail at the live interview because of their inability to listen.

During the program your choices will be constantly challenged by a wide array of mentors and experts. The point is to give you the most complete perspective on your business and its challenges. This process cannot happen without a constructive feedback loop.

Having strong opinions doesn't mean being close-minded or stubborn, accelerators value people that believe in something as much as they value people who are able to respond to criticism in a relevant way.

If you have tunnel vision you will miss on one of the main benefits of the program which is mentorship. It would be unwise for an accelerator to invest their experts' precious time with no guarantee of an impact.

One of NUMA's mottos is "you carry the vision, we carry the light": the faith of the startup lies ultimately in the hands of its founders and the choice is yours on whether you want someone to walk with you and guide you.

In short: the job of an accelerator is to speed up the development of viable businesses, but this cannot happen if the basic components are not in place.

If your space rocket is not ready for takeoff, you can always choose to apply for the following acceleration season.

Practical tips

Take your time

The first rule is: don't rush it. If it's your first time, an application questionnaire will require some serious thinking and discussion with your team: print out the questions, fire up the coffeemaker and gather your companions around the whiteboard.

Evaluators can easily tell when an application has been thrown together in a haste or copy-pasted from a generic slide deck.

Show them you are serious about the program, otherwise why are you even applying?

Putting effort in your application sends the message that you care about the quality of your work.

Filling in the questionnaire is a collaborative effort: sometimes it will require each founder to answer individually so make sure you set aside some time to work on it as a team.

Even if you don't get through on your first round, it'll be worth it: time and again startups have told us that the research and refining that requires a well-crafted application becomes an asset later when presenting their business to clients and investors or when mapping out strengths and weaknesses of their product.

Get straight to the point

The first question an accelerator will usually ask is **what** you're making: they expect an answer that is straight to the point, in plain and factual language.

Paul Graham from Y Combinator makes a very convincing point of why clarity and concision should be every applicant's priority. Given the amount of applications evaluators read, it's essential that your message is packaged to come across crystal clear: you want to paint an instant picture of your future product, one that leaves no doubt about the nature of what you're building.

Take this statement:

"We are a free energy-saving service for budget hotels"

What can be said about this startup is:

- They are in the energy market
- The service is free
- Their value proposition is to reduce energy costs
- Their client segment is budget hotels

Despite being very succinct, this one-line pitch doesn't tell us what it is that they are actually making, the vehicle of their value proposition. We are left to wonder how they reduce expenses: do they build insulating panels? Do they negotiate better rates with providers? Is it even scalable? How do they make money if it's a free service?

A better way to put it could be:

"ProductX is a connected hardware device that automatically turns off air conditioning when clients are not in their hotel room allowing budget hotel managers to save up to 30% in electricity bills"

Now, in addition to what we knew before, we also know this:

- It's a hardware product
- It is automated
- The way it reduces costs is by controlling AC

The evaluator now has situated the product or service in an identifiable category and is probably curious to read further and find out how this works in detail. Also, he can now infer that profitability could come either in the form of direct product sales or as a commission on savings.

While trying to be specific, avoid the mistake of decorating your product description with baroque or “salesy” language, evaluators read through that bullshit.

If you’re having trouble describing your product in one sentence you can make a parallel with existing popular products, for example “we’re the Github of patisserie recipes”.

To test whether you have been factual enough in your description, ask someone to either draw your product or describe the customer journey. If it looks like your product you know you nailed it.

Describe a solid team

The quality of the team is the most important factor in deciding whether an accelerator will be working with you or not.

At NUMA we try to get an idea of your team as a system. The questions we ask ourselves are: have they already worked together and how well do they know each other? How experienced are they in their respective fields? Do their skills match the project’s challenges? Are the roles clearly defined and is there a natural leader?

In this excellent guide, Mattan Griffel, startup founder and YC alumni notes that the team is an important risk factor for a startup’s success.

If the team dynamic is cohesive and founders personalities fit well together, there is a greater chance of long-lasting internal stability. Incompatible characters can lead either to paralysis (when none of the founders is a decision-maker or risk-taker) or to break-up (when more than one founder has a controlling personality).

Another red flag for evaluators is when a team is taking on a challenge in a field in which they have no experience in or in building a product for which they do not have the skills.

Make sure that you draw a clear connection between your challenges as a startup and your skills as a founder.

Let's say you are building a SaaS that allows bakers to optimise the ROI of pastries by calculating costs and revenues for different product recipes, it is a pretty specific field and the first question that will pop in and evaluator's mind is: does this guy even know what he's talking about?

Here's how one of our alumni preemptively countered such doubts:

"I studied physics and chemistry before graduating in business administration. I worked two years as a strategy consultant for <name of big consulting company> but decided to leave to create a bakery and pastry chain in Brazil so I undertook a pâtissier qualification to get to understand the industry. When the director of my pastry school showed huge interest in the excel-based profitability analysis tool I had built, I decided it was time to turn it into a scalable business."

When you present your team you are building a puzzle for the evaluators, when they have finished reading all the pieces should fall into place, none missing.

Griffel gives some tips on how to reassure the accelerator you are a solid team: show what you have already achieved together, mention how long you've known each other for and if you have just recently met focus on your complementarity instead.

— End of Part I. read Part II.

If you run a startup accelerator or if you've gone through the selection process as a startup or you are planning to, we would love to hear your thoughts: what is the hardest part of the process? What are other tips that you would give to an entrepreneur applying to a startup accelerator? Have you discovered any secrets?

If the feedback is positive we'll publish a Part III about the live interview process and how to pitch in front of the jury.

Part II includes:

- Why one value proposition is better than two

- Do your market research
- Know the customer and the problem
- Explain your competitive advantage

These insights are based on my personal experience as an evaluator and advisor at NUMA: the top early-stage startup accelerator in France.

Focus on a single value proposition

When talking about their product startups are often tempted to present it as a swiss knife made to solve multiple problems.

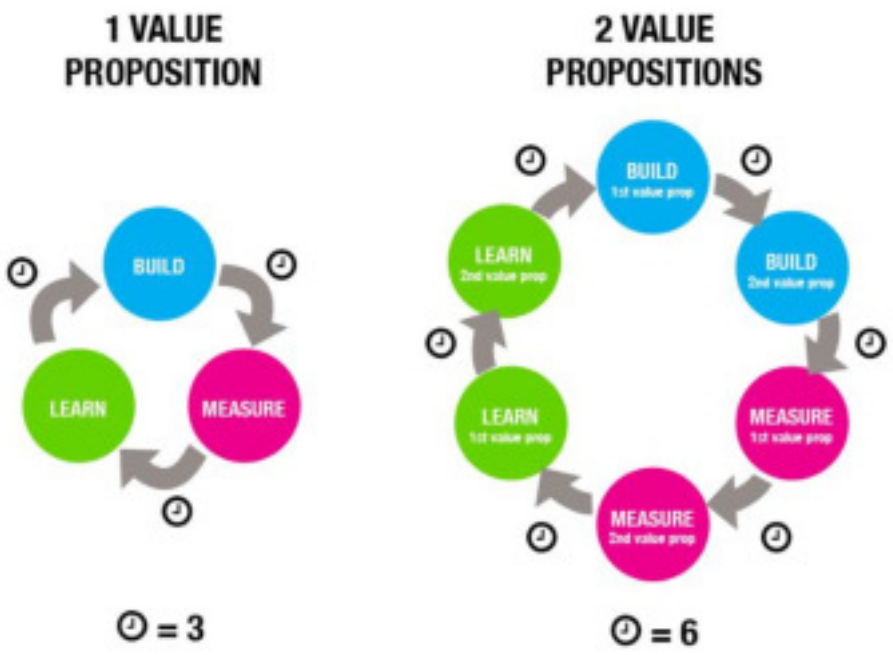
For early-stage startups it is a very bad idea to take this approach for several reasons:

- It dilutes the strength of your claim
- It makes your product harder to define and memorise
- It shows lack of focus

You may have heard the expression "jack of all trades, master of none": I find this expression doesn't do justice to those of us with horizontal skill sets, but works well to describe a multi-purpose early-stage product or service.

A business that hasn't reached product/market fit should focus on one value proposition and one customer segment only (or at least one at a time): the reason is focus and efficiency.

The biggest advancements during acceleration come from shortening the lean startup cycle of *build-measure-learn*, but if you multiply your value propositions you end up working on several of these cycles chained together: assuming your man-hour throughput stays the same you are effectively increasing the time to get to product/market fit.



Having a single value proposition helps minimise time through the loop.

Another way to put it is **"don't multitask",** **Aza Raskin** explains why in his post *You Can't Multitask*

If I review a startup application that promises to do everything for everyone what I picture is a product that doesn't excel at solving any specific problem and doesn't fully satisfy any customer persona (value proposition dilution).

Also it makes it hard to memorise and explain to other stakeholders at the accelerator, for example:

" FoodMeUp targets bakers, restaurant owners, agribusiness companies and customers in B2C. We aim to progressively build a complete SaaS ecosystem that will include: supply chain management, ROI analysis, HR recruitment, accounting and legal assistance, point of sales, loyalty cards management, a marketplace and a forum. "

That's a mouthful, isn't it? If someone were to ask me "what does this startup do?" I wouldn't know where to begin. I'd get a headache just by attempting to draw logical connections between customer needs and proposed solution.

Here the founder laid out his long-term vision of the product in 3+ years, instead of focussing on a clear value proposition and customer segment that could be understood, memorised and challenged by an evaluator.

Making a roadmap is a useful exercise, but at the very beginning of your journey it's like an ancient world map: it only accounts for what you already know.

Sorry America, I didn't expect you to exist.

As you may have guessed FoodMeUp didn't get selected with this application, but the founder (who recently raised 480K) applied for the following session with a much clearer description that got him into NUMA:

"FoodMeUp offers the first modern recipe-management SaaS solution for tech-savvy food artisans, it saves time and money in the production workflow and maximises recipes' ROI."

Startup founders tend to resist giving too narrow a view of what they consider a larger, richer and more complex system: it is a sin of pride.

Remember this: **early-stage startup accelerators value focus and depth above breadth of scope** and long-term goals, so **avoid highlighting the latter if it detracts from the former**.

Do your market research

"We have no competitors because no-one does exactly what we do"

We've heard this so many times it's almost become an inside joke of startup accelerators.

If you're a first-time founder you should memorise this concept: **it's not how you solve the problem, it's the nature of the problem itself (and possibly the customer niche) that puts you in the same playing field with competitors.**

If something solves the same problem in a suboptimal way, it is still an alternative solution.

If you're making a dog-sitting robot for busy singles it doesn't mean you're alone in the market because no-one has developed an automated solution of taking dogs for a walk (oh, actually I just checked and someone's already on it).

You are effectively competing with any solution to the single's problem of not having time to walk the dog: professional dog-sitters, doggie daycares, the single's friendly neighbours, pet-friendly workplaces and potty training.

This is to say that even when you have no competitors to name you're still competing with your customer's way of currently dealing with his problem and you'll have to think of what will make them overcome the friction of adopting your solution instead.

Declaring that you have no competitors is counterproductive because we'll assume that you either haven't done your research, don't understand what a competitor is or that you think evaluators don't know how to use a search engine, it looks bad in all three cases.

Do your market research: it's in the interest of your business development and something you'll be asked to discuss in the live interview if you get through.

Don't know where to start? **Try by searching for the phrase that best describes the problem you are solving** (I'm sometimes amazed by how rarely founders do this), usually you'll find three types of results: websites of direct competitors, compiled lists of alternative solutions with their respective pros & cons and tutorials on how to solve the problem with your own means.

Your job is to distill this information and use it to pinpoint your position in the competitive landscape (you can even create a competitor analysis grid or a SWOT diagram).

Know your customers and their problem

One of the big questions evaluators ask themselves when reading your application is whether you are tackling a problem that is worth solving.

"But what makes a problem worth solving?", you may ask.

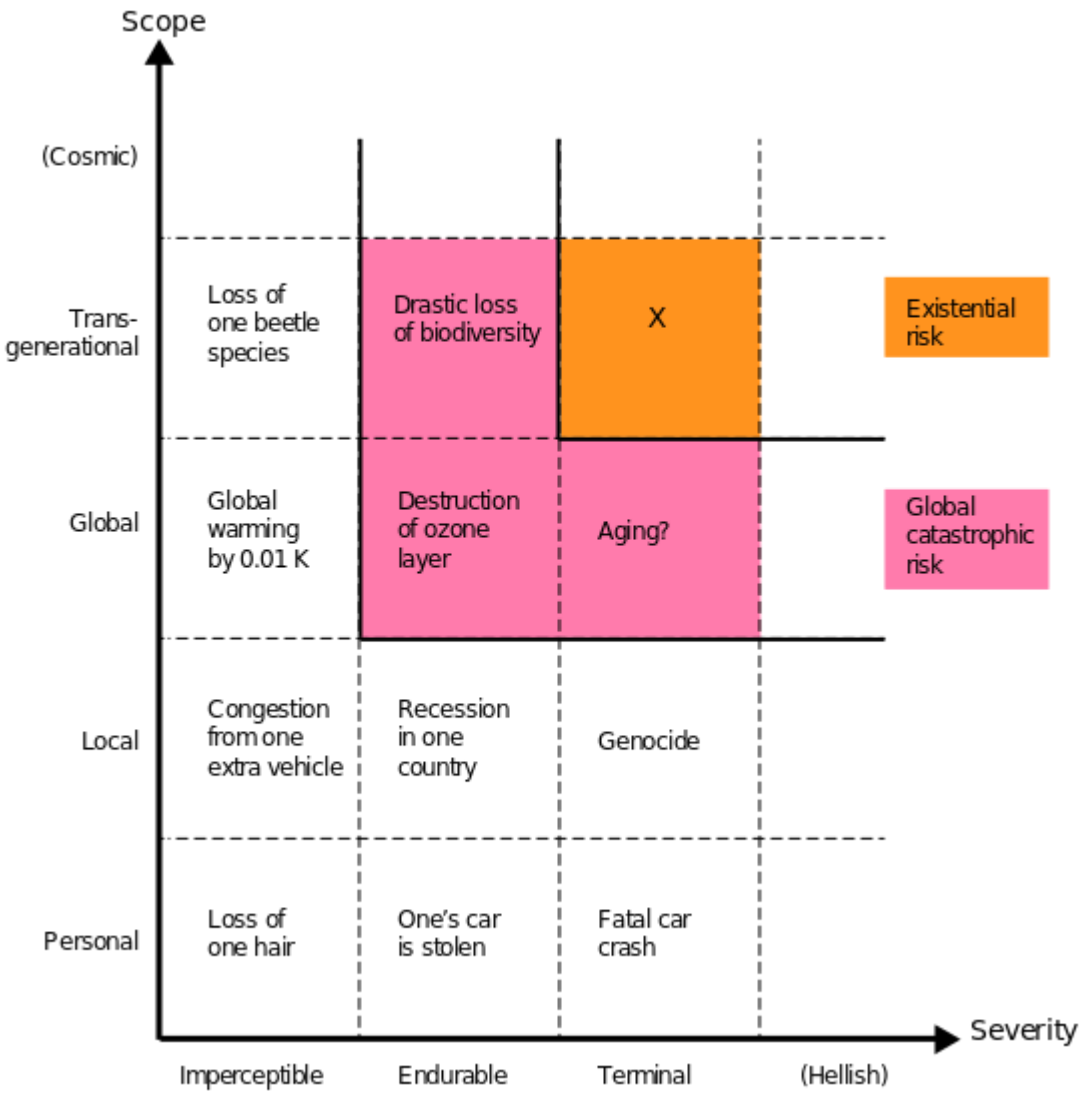
Here are some factors to consider:

- Severity of the problem
- Frequency of the problem occurrence
- Size of the customer segment affected by the problem
- Customer profitability
- Coverage by other solutions
- Persistence of the problem

Let's break it down:

Severity

How critical the problem is for your customer in terms of consequences, how big the downside of not solving, solving sub-optimally or working around the problem is. The downside can be situated anywhere between *minor annoyance* and *global catastrophe* (and, judging by this graph, even beyond that)



What's the revenue model of a product solving a "cosmic, hellish" problem? — Scope/intensity grid from Bostrom's paper "Existential Risk Prevention as Global Priority"

Frequency

How frequently the problem occurs for your customer. This can range from *uninterrupted* to *once in a lifetime*.

Customer segment size

How many people have this specific problem. Can range from *one* to *world population*.

Customer profitability

How much profit can be made by targeting this type of customer. This is a trickier one because the revenue model of a startup can drastically change over time. In some cases (like social networks) users and customers can be distinct groups. Users could be initially acquired and retained by solving a problem (or leveraging a behaviour) to generate valuable resources (data or ugc) that can then be monetised through a different customer segment (advertisers).

If your customer profitability is hard to estimate, the upside is you have margin for manoeuvre when giving possible projections: play this card to your advantage.

Coverage by other solutions

How well existing solutions solve the problem for this customer segment. Coverage can be deduced from your market analysis and has two dimensions: quantity and quality, the number of existing alternative solutions and their relative effectiveness in addressing the specific problem/customer pair.

Persistence of the problem

How long will the customer segment suffer from the problem. Some problems have a shorter lifespan than others.

Let's say your initial customer segment is "first-time moms of children under 3 that are overwhelmed by requests of baby pictures from relatives" (if you think this segment is a bit too narrow, I invite you to read the CloudFlare case-study in Running Lean by Ash Maurya).

For this specific problem the persistence will be 3 years (you may have to figure out what value to deliver later to extend customer lifetime or widen the segment beyond early adopters).

If on the other hand your customer segment is "hi-tech optic companies that need to protect confidential information" your average problem persistence may stretch decades.

The above examples look only at the micro level from the individual customer perspective, but you can look at persistence at the macro level too: how long do you expect a problem to exist from the perspective of society as a whole?

Changes in social norms, popular beliefs and women's apparel brought the smelling salts market down

When looking at the above factors we also try to take into account where the trend is going (for example: problems relating to big data have seen a growing trend).

Here's an example of different problem/customer pairs compared using these factors.

Warning: estimates may not reflect reality.

Customer	Busy white-collar singles	People without direct access to drinkable water	Wealthy American couples about to marry
Problem	Not having the time to walk the dog three times a day	Having to walk 10 kilometres to access drinkable water	Lack of time, difficulty and stress organising a large event
Severity	Downside: a stressed dog, a dirty apartment	Downside: average lifespan shortening	Downside: decrease in social status, negative impact on family relationships
Frequency	Daily	6 times a day	1-3 times in a lifetime (ballpark)
Segment size	1 million (ballpark)	783 millions	2.5 million
Profitability	Average	Low	High
Solution coverage	High	Low	High
Persistence	avg number of dogs * avg. dog lifespan	Lifetime	1 year (per wedding)

Once an evaluator has made up his mind about whether you're working on a problem worth solving the next step is looking at how well you understand the pain point you're working on alleviating, the depth of your empathy with the customer and your ability to detach yourself from the solution you're building.

Your solution is not a problem

In our program's application we ask startups not to talk about their solution: **founders tend to fall in love with their solution and forget that what matters is delivering value to customers.**

A customer rarely cares about how you solve their problem as long as you do solve it.

A solution can rarely fix more than a single problem, but a single problem can be fixed many different ways, that's why we look for people that are good at analysing problems first.

Here's a useful insight from Product and UX Consultant Melissa Perri from her presentation *The Build Trap*:

Customers' problems are not lack of your product's features.

To test how much in love you are with your solution you can try asking yourself and your cofounders this question: “if you discovered that the best way to solve the customer’s problem does not entail using your favourite technology or the skill at which you excel, would you still want to work on it?”

If the answer is no, you’re probably driven more by the satisfaction of building something than that of solving a problem.

Define your competitive advantage

Your competitive advantage is probably the second most important factor after the quality of your team for tipping the scales in your favour when your startup is examined.

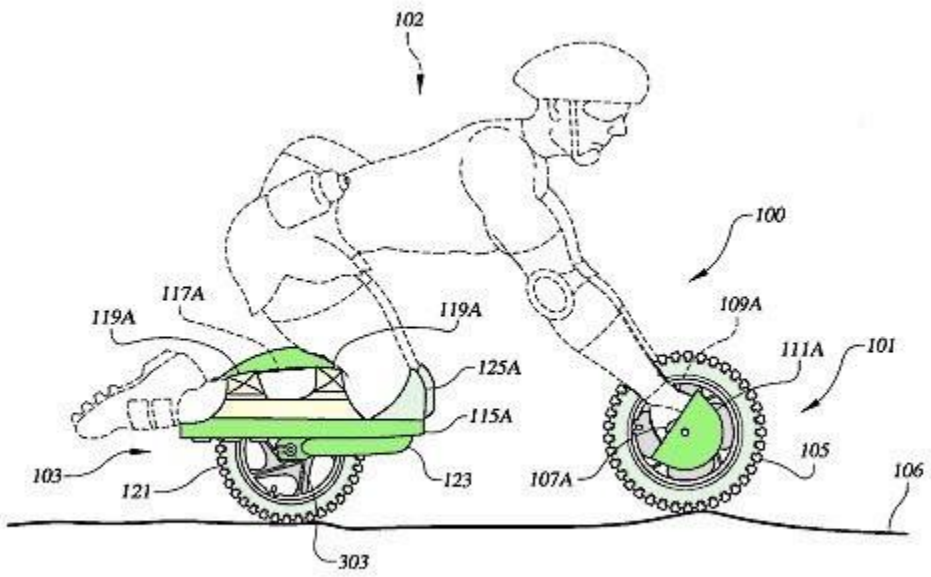
A competitive advantage can take different forms:

- A proprietary technology
- A secret you have discovered
- A privileged access to the market
- Exceptional speed

A proprietary technology

Assuming your technology is patented and more effective than existing ones in solving a problem, this can represent a real advantage against competitors: by the time it takes others to find a better technological solution without running into patent infringement you can hope to achieve a dominant position in the market.

Remember however that a patented technology may not suffice to give you a competitive edge in solving a certain problem.



This technology is surely going to disrupt the extreme sports industry

A secret you discovered

In his book Zero to One, Peter Thiel encourages entrepreneurs to hunt for secrets.

Thiel defines secrets as “unpopular or unconventional truths”.

For example, a secret that Airbnb implicitly reveals is that the customer friction of renting an apartment from a perfect stranger can be lowered below the friction presented by the price of traditional hotel accommodation. Once this truth revealed, it changes the rules of the market.

Secrets that give you a competitive advantage are those triggering disruptive innovation in dealing with a problem or leveraging a need.

It is important that you identify in which way your approach relies on a truth that no one else has uncovered yet.

Notice the word *yet*: when dealing with unconventional truths about human behaviour (like those discovered by early sharing economy entrepreneurs) the competitive

advantage lasts until a competitor is able to reverse-engineer your solution, work out the psychological triggers that make it successful and reproduce it.

This reinforces the importance of having an analytical approach to problems. Secrets can be uncovered by entrepreneurs who are curious, who perform extensive customer research, test different approaches, are not afraid of getting their hands dirty and **prioritise learning over building**.

Ultimately it boils down to to the question: “what have you understood about this business that your competitors fail to grasp?”

Tamagotchi creators uncovered psychological triggers that could boost engagement and retention.

A privileged access to the market

This can be anything that gives you an unfair advantage: close connections to clients in your industry (like when your dad is the head of a telecom company and you’re selling SIM cards), being an active member and influencer in your own customer niche (like when you’re an e-sports superstar building a fantasy e-sports app), exerting direct or

indirect political influence on policy-makers (like when you have connections at the UN and you're tackling a humanitarian problem).

Privileged access can serve as a fence against competitors and is another arrow in your quiver. The question that reveals whether you have some sort of privileged access is: "in what way you are better positioned than your competitors in this market?"

Exceptional speed

Getting there before anyone else doesn't guarantee success, one of the reasons is that when you're the first one you cannot learn from anyone else's mistakes.

On the other hand **responsiveness to new developments in the market and speed of execution can allow a startup to keep ahead of competition**.

When looking at speed as a competitive advantage an evaluator can rely on these indicators:

- The team's efficiency and commitment
- The founders' grit, stamina, reactivity and resilience

Some of these indicators pertain to the characteristics of a solid team discussed in Part I.

12 BEST STARTUP INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS OF 2017

There are several other incubators, however, that are formed by governments, civic groups, startup organizations or successful entrepreneurs.

A startup Incubator helps entrepreneurs to solve some of the problems commonly associated with running a startup by providing workspace, seed funding, mentoring, and training. The sole purpose of a startup incubator is to help entrepreneurs grow their business and usually non-profit organizations, which are usually run by both public and private entities.

There are several other incubators, however, that are formed by governments, civic groups, startup organizations or successful entrepreneurs. While most of the media emphasis focuses on tech startups, incubators aren't just limited to one industry.There are also all-purpose incubators that consider all kinds of startups, regardless of industry.

Here are some of the Best startup incubators given below….

Y Combinator

Y Combinator provides seed funding for startups. Seed funding is the earliest stage of venture funding. It pays your expenses while you're getting started. Some companies may need no more than seed funding. Others will go through several rounds. There is no right answer; how much funding you need depends on the kind of company you start.

Y Combinator goal is to get you through the first phase that where you've built something impressive enough to raise money on a larger scale. Y Combinator has a novel approach to seed funding: fund startups in batches. There are two each year, one from January through March and one from June through August. During each cycle, they fund multiple startups.

Techstars

Techstars is a global ecosystem that empowers entrepreneurs to bring new technologies to market wherever they choose to live. With dozens of mentorship-driven accelerator programs and thousands of startup programs worldwide.

Techstars exists to support the world's most promising entrepreneurs throughout their lifelong journey, from inspiration to IPO.

500 Startups

500 Startups is a global venture capital seed fund with a network of startup programs and believe successful internet startups are born from usable design, customer-focused metrics, and online distribution. they challenge themselves to also embody those qualities in how to help startups through both our seed fund and our startup accelerator program.

In no particular order, that means: Building best-in-class resources for usable design, customer-focused metrics, and online distribution. Creating a diverse network of experienced and operationally-focused mentors. Partnering with key platform companies and services that will help our startups. Pushing the envelope on how we do investments…

AngelPad

AngelPad is a seed-stage accelerator program based and have launched more than 130 companies in 10 cohorts. Every 6 months we select about 12 teams from a huge pool of applicants (usually around 2000) to work with us.

This focus has paid off, AngelPad has risen to be the #1 Accelerator in the U.S. (at least that's what a real study from MIT/Brown University says) and Strictly VC called us the "Anti-Y Combinator". During the program, they work on everything from finding product market fit, defining a target market to getting first validation for the company.

Seedcamp

Seedcamp believes the most ambitious founders seek out the smartest capital. Smart capital is more than the money to get you started. To realize your vision you need to tap into a global network of the right Advisors and overcome the challenges you'll face in the fastest possible time. You need to put yourself in a position to have your choice of Talent, Advisors, and Investors, wherever they are across the globe. Seedcamp.

Seedcamp invests their Network, Learning, and Capital based on the needs of seedcamp Founders, providing the platform to enable you to scale. In eight years we've backed almost 200 companies with one unicorn and 91% having raised further funding to a tune of $350M.

Capital Factory

Capital Factory is the entrepreneurial center of gravity in Austin, Texas. Located in the middle of downtown, Capital Factory has 50,000 square feet full of startups and entrepreneurs. Capital Factory Take the classes to learn the skills that startups need, attend meet ups to find a co-founder, rent a desk for your startup or apply for funding and mentorship in the Incubator.

At Capital Factory, you will meet your co-founder, first employee, mentor, press or investor. You'll sharpen your skills and up your game. You'll be surrounded by other entrepreneurs going through the same challenges and Accelerator is focused on helping

tech startups profitably generate $1 million in revenue with less than $1 million in funding.

Eranyc

Entrepreneurs Roundtable Accelerator (ERA) is an early-stage seed fund and technology accelerator created by New Yorkers, for New York. It is committed to helping build the next generation of great New York technology companies. ERA looks for companies that are best able to take full advantage of the NYC opportunity as a starting point to successfully enter the market for their product, service or application.

ERA runs two four-month sessions per year, each with 10 companies. Startups receive $40K, free office space, free legal and other services. Additionally, companies receive free hands-on help from a team of 200+ mentors, who are experts in their respective fields.

Amplify

Amplify is a hands-on startup accelerator and multi-faceted entrepreneurial campus in Los Angeles. itself is a startup, run by an incredible team of entrepreneurs and visionaries. they expect to benefit from the community they're building as much as our members will and making a real impact in the Los Angeles startup ecosystem is at the heart of our strategy.

By providing seed funding, access to additional capital, and an unmatched team of mentors and advisors who have a unique connection to media and entertainment. Every company accepted will receive up to $50K in seed funding and free workspace in our community entrepreneur facility in Venice.

Betaworks

Betaworks is a start-up platform based in New York, focus on the intersection of media and technology and betaworks platform combines three areas of expertise.

1. A **studio** where build products like Giphy, Dots, bitly and Tweetdeck.

2. An investment **fund** for early stage start-ups related to the areas are building in.

3. camp; a thematic accelerator program for start-ups in frontier technology such as Bots, AI and Verbal Computing.

Betaworks brings together these three areas to create extraordinary companies and work with exceptional people combining art and science.

Transmedia Capital

The Transmedia Capital (TMC) investment strategy is focused on early stage companies in the digital media market. Targeted categories within the digital media market include social media, analytics, social enterprise, mobile platforms, marketing platforms, advertising, marketplaces, content distribution, and search.

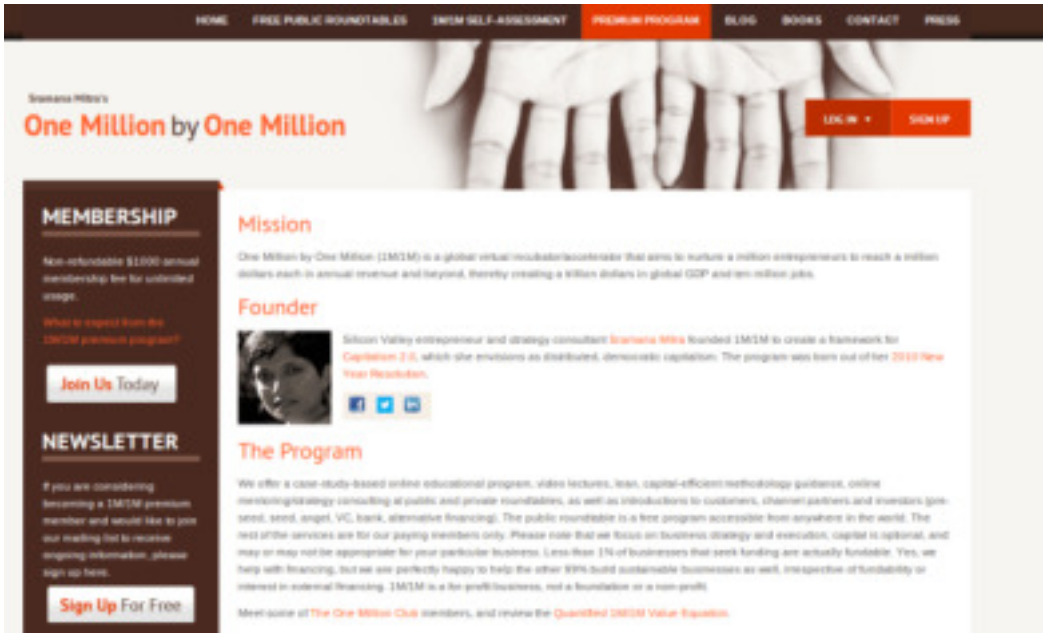
They are seasoned operators who have worked within the digital media, entertainment and advertising industries, and is also very attractive for entrepreneurs that want to leverage our expertise and relationships.

TechNexus

TechNexus Venture Collaborative accelerates corporate engagement for entrepreneurs, developing faster market validation and a stronger, open innovation ecosystem. Anchored by our 50,000 square foot Chicago incubator and a curated, global network of partners, catalysts, and entrepreneurial enclaves, TechNexus nurtures, develops, funds and aligns venture activity with an enterprise focus.

TechNexus is a venture collaborative of entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders. Since 2007, we have advised and mentored 450+ enterprise-focused ventures that have attracted $400M+ in capital.

One Million by One Million



One Million by One Million is a global virtual incubator that aims to help a million entrepreneurs reach a million dollars in annual revenue, thereby creating a trillion dollars in global GDP and ten million jobs.

They offer a case-study-based online educational program, video lectures, and methodology, online strategy consulting at public and private online roundtables, as well as introductions to customers, partners, and investors. The public roundtable is a free program accessible from anywhere in the world. The rest of the services are paying members only.

The Best Startup Accelerators Of 2017

Platinum Plus tier: AngelPad, Y Combinator

Platinum tier: Alchemist, Amplify LA, MuckerLab, StartX, Techstars, U. Chicago New Venture Challenge

Gold tier: 500 Startups, gener8tor, HAX, Healthbox, IndieBio, Mass Challenge, R/GA, SkyDeck

Silver tier: Brandery, Capital Innovators, Dreamit, Plug and Play, REach, Yield Lab, Zero to 510

Bronze tier: Accelerprise, AlphaLab, FoodX, Health Wildcatters, Lighthouse Labs, UpTech, XLR8UH

SEED ACCELERATOR RANKINGS PROJECT

2017 ACCELERATOR RANKINGS

PLATINUM

PLUS

AngelPad
Y Combinator

Alchemist
Amplify LA
Mucker Lab
StartX
Techstars
U. Chicago New Venture Challenge

GOLD

500 Startups
generator
HAX
Healthbox
IndieBio
MassChallenge
R/GA
SkyDeck

SILVER

Brandery
Capital Innovators
Dreamit
PlugAndPlay
REach
Yield Lab
Zero to 510

BRONZE

Accelerprise
AlphaLab
FoodX
Health Wildcatters
Lighthouse Labs
UpTech
XLR8UH

For the full ranking and methodology, go to www.seedrankings.com

SARP