



## Innovation Cafe Acquires Advisory Firm, Taps Financial Industry Veteran as New President/COO

*JP Nicols to Lead Global Expansion Efforts*

SAN JOSE, CA – January 15, 2015 – Award-winning social innovation company [Innovation Cafe](#) announced today it is acquiring the financial services advisory firm [Clientific](#). As a part of the transaction, Clientific CEO **JP Nicols** will become Innovation Cafe’s President and Chief Operating Officer.

Nicols will remain in Seattle, where he will lead the company’s global expansion efforts, while Innovation Cafe Founder and CEO **Jay van Zyl** will continue to drive strategy and product development from the company’s San Jose headquarters.

Clientific will be merged into Innovation Cafe’s existing advisory practice. Innovation Cafe uniquely combines its award-winning social collaboration and idea management software platform with expert advisory services to ensure that organizations create a sustainable innovation culture that drives tangible business results.

*“We have been working with JP for over a year through our partnership with the Bank Innovators Council, and we couldn’t imagine a better person to help us expand our growth globally” said van Zyl, “He is internationally recognized as a thought leader in financial services, and that sector is a major part of our client base.”*

Nicols added: *“This combination is a perfect fit. We have a very similar philosophy and approach to working with clients, and we see a lot of the same challenges and opportunities facing the financial industry. Innovation Cafe has helped multiple banks to be named among the world’s most innovative, and we have a huge opportunity to build on that success in the U.S. and globally.”*

### **About Innovation Cafe**

Innovation Cafe helps companies solve critical challenges in creating, discovering and implementing new ideas that create lasting value. The company has helped over 100,000 people participate in innovation campaigns that have generated more than \$400 million in shareholder value. As a result, some of its clients have been recognized as some of the most innovative companies in the world. [www.innovationcafe.com](http://www.innovationcafe.com)

## **About JP Nicols**

JP Nicols is a former senior bank executive who founded Clientific as a boutique research and advisory firm to help drive innovation, strategy and leadership in financial organizations. Recognized internationally as an influential thought leader in financial services, he is also the co-founder of the [Bank Innovators Council](#), a global membership organization that helps support and promote innovation in banking. More on his background and thought leadership can be found on his personal blog at [jpnichols.com/about](http://jpnichols.com/about).

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## **Contacts:**

Daniel Charvat  
Innovation Cafe  
[daniel@innovationcafe.com](mailto:daniel@innovationcafe.com)  
Tel: +1 (408) 444-5982

Troy Morrison  
Torrey Pines Marketing  
[troy@torreypinesmktg.com](mailto:troy@torreypinesmktg.com)  
Tel: +1 (619) 723-8232