

## Global property leader Matthew Banks appointed Chair of Cognian

### *Australian proptech of the year eyes international expansion in 2021*

**SYDNEY, Australia – 8 December 2020** – [Cognian Technologies](#), a fast-growing Australian smart building technology company, today announced the appointment of Matthew Banks as non-executive chairman.

This appointment coincides with Cognian's Syncromesh Smart Canopy as a Service technology being named the winner in the Best New Proptech category at The Urban Developer Awards 2020.

Until 2019, Matthew Banks was an Executive Director at Macquarie Group where he held senior roles within its real estate businesses. Since 2019 Mr Banks has been a consultant and director to various real estate entities around the globe and has previously held the position of Chief Executive Officer for the Lendlease Funds Management businesses in the United States, Asia and Australia.

Outgoing chair, Spiro Pappas will remain on the Cognian board and was delighted to welcome his successor.

"The development and growth that Cognian has achieved since launching in 2016 is exceptional," Pappas said. "With strong partnerships in place, now is the right time for a property industry leader of Matthew's calibre to chair the board and guide the Cognian leadership team into its next phase of growth. I look forward to remaining an active board member and continuing to advise the team into 2021 and beyond."

Incoming chair, Matthew Banks, commented on the company's scope for growth, locally and internationally, as the commercial property world looks to establish a new rhythm following the seismic shifts of 2020.

"The property sector and related industries will have those that prosper and those that struggle after this tumultuous year," Banks said. "In Cognian, I see a company with a unique approach to connecting buildings, and helping owners and managers address the ever-present issues of security, comfort, hygiene, sustainability and cost-control, all of which have been brought under the spotlight like never before."

Commenting on the transition, Cognian co-founder and CEO Mark Blum said, "We could not have been more fortunate than to have Spiro Pappas as Cognian's founding chair as we launched our unique Syncromesh wireless canopy and grew from start-up to scale-up.

"With Matthew Banks as our new chair – bringing his global real estate expertise and experience – sitting alongside Spiro on our board, Cognian has the right mix of financial, property, technology and growth experience to drive further into in the Australian market while setting ourselves up for international expansion."

### **Cognian's Smart Canopy as-a-Service named best new Proptech in Australia**

Cognian has been named the winner in the [Best New Proptech category](#) at The Urban Developer Awards 2020, for its Smart Canopy as-a-Service (SCaaS) solution. Powered by Cognian's proprietary Syncromesh wireless technology, SCaaS makes any building a smart building.

Blum said, "2020 has been a year like no other with the property sector pivoting to create a new path to success as people make the gradual return to the office. There are now huge demands on smart building technology to provide capacity, hygiene and safety monitoring, on top of outcomes including cost control, emissions and security – which have always been high on the agenda.

"Receiving such an accolade from leading industry platform, The Urban Developer is testament to the ability of Syncromesh to enable human-centric smart buildings. It is an endorsement of our open

standards approach that lets owners, building managers and tenants expand their smart building capabilities as the demands of the post-pandemic world dictate, with minimal occupant interruption.”

Most recently Cognian announced an agreement with Australian smart energy software as a service provider Simble to roll out the SimbleSense energy measurement and verification platform for all buildings in which Syncromesh is deployed.

This news follows a strong 2020 for Cognian, which saw its partnership ecosystem expand to include Microsoft, Mirvac Ventures, Reekoh, Barhead and a range of property industry and technology leaders.

-ends-

### **About Cognian**

[Cognian Technologies](#) is a fast-growing Australian company whose mission it is to make existing buildings smart buildings, and smart buildings smarter. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, the company was founded in July 2016. Its flagship product Syncromesh is a wireless canopy that empowers building owners and operators to simply add a range of building management solutions to lower a building’s carbon footprint, reduce energy costs, and increase tenant satisfaction, regardless of the buildings size, location or age. Cognian has deployed Syncromesh to over 20 buildings to date and owns an extensive patent portfolio with patents pending and issued patents in Australia, USA, Canada, Japan and Europe.

### **Media contact:**

Espresso Communications for Cognian  
[cognian@espressoconms.com.au](mailto:cognian@espressoconms.com.au)