

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTOS WILL BE PROVIDED

Animated *Watch the Skies* Signs All-Star Cast

BEIJING AND LONDON, AUGUST 2018. An ensemble cast of some of Britain's strongest international talent will portray the audacious and determined characters out to rescue an alien boy whose starship crashed on the earth in the animated sci-fi adventure, *Watch the Skies*, from China's DeZerlin Media and the UK's Zycon Media.

Sean Bean (*Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Goldeneye*) will voice tech billionaire Peter Fox, who is determined to get his hands on alien technology at all costs, and Asa Butterfield (*Ender's Game, Hugo, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*) voices St'aar, the intergalactic teenager on the run from Fox and his security force, headed by Major Laura Jude, played by Gemma Arterton (*Quantum of Solace, Clash of the Titans, Prince of Persia*).

St'aar is aided in his escape by the children of the same alien hunters out to capture him, with Sam Claflin (*Hunger Games, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Huntsman*) as the plucky teen leader, Spinner, and Laura Haddock (*Guardians of the Galaxy, Transformers*) as his stunningly talented girlfriend, Izzy, who also has eyes for the alien teen.

On a thrilling chase around the earth they discover that life, love, and adventure are the same throughout the galaxy.

Watch the Skies grapples with perception vs reality in a coming-of-age story filled with over-the-top adventure and sly humor, and has been carefully crafted by writer-director Mark Byers (*Criminal Act, The Treatment, Diggin' Up Business*) for today's audiences – the thrills are real, the characters are capable, the feelings are raw and unpredictable.

The rollicking escapade is produced by Lin Zhang, CEO of DeZerlin Media, and Mohammed Khalid, CEO of Zycon Media. Casting Director Melsie Bourne of UK's The Bourne Consultancy worked closely with agent Sara Elman of Advice, a division of International Talent Group, to cast the entire picture.

“Melsie Bourne and Sara Elman have brought us a remarkable array of talent who are passionate about the story and the characters they will portray,” said writer-director Byers. “And I am particularly excited to have a veritable who’s who of sci-fi and fantasy favorites in our cast.”

Watch the Skies, set for release in 2019, is the first in a 10-movie slate of animated features between DeZerlin and Zycon that was announced by UK Prime Minister Theresa May in February as part of a package of UK-China creative and cultural collaborations. Los Angeles entertainment lawyer Brian J. Murphy tailored the China-UK co-production pact for DeZerlin as well as the negotiation and closing of the talent deals for the all-star voice cast.

“We are pleased to have found a creative kindred spirit in China’s DeZerlin Media,” said producer Khalid. “Lin Zhang has a far-reaching global vision, and has created IP that is both highly commercial and also touchingly heartfelt. The combination of their creative brains and our production brawn will cut through all cultural barriers.”

“This partnership with Zycon represents a milestone for the Chinese entertainment industry,” said producer Zhang, “and marks the beginning of the globalization of content created in China and enjoyed by audiences everywhere.”

With *Watch the Skies* in full production, the team is focused on the development of the subsequent projects in the slate, including the comedy-adventure, *Codename: Furball*, about a remarkable secret agent cat who saves England during World War 2, and *Hawkins and Silver*, a steampunk retelling of the classic *Treasure Island* story set in a world shared by talking animals and humans.

About DeZerlin Media

Lin Zhang, Founder and CEO

DeZerlin Media (China) was founded in 2010 in the east coast city of Qingdao, and has grown into one of the preeminent IP and content creation houses in Asia, with long term relationships in animation, live action, games, publishing, and merchandise across Europe, Asia, and North America.

DeZerlin Media is focused on creating broad worlds and vast universes from which characters, stories, and franchises for all media can be drawn and developed. The core creative and management team of DeZerlin Media is comprised of seasoned professionals who have produced award-winning work for Hollywood and top studios and production companies worldwide.

DeZerlin Media has formed financial partnerships with Houtu Venture Capital, HG Capital, and DH Capital, and received national recognition as one of the “*Top Fifty Cultural And Creative Enterprises With The Most Investment Value*” by the China Cultural and Financial Innovation Summit.

About Zycon Media

Mohammed Khalid, Founder and CEO

With headquarters in London and a global outreach, Zycon Media was established to create, acquire, finance, produce, and globally manage entertainment content that is capable of becoming international cross-platform entertainment brands.

Zycon is currently producing or co-producing a broad spectrum of content for motion picture, television, streaming, game, publishing, and merchandise applications.

The company has established strong long-term alliances with key production teams and major distribution and licensing companies worldwide to strengthen the value chain and awareness of products in the competitive lifestyle and entertainment markets.

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For further information, interviews, or materials please contact Maggie Qu at DeZerlin Media, +86 (532) 67782055 (office), +86 13969776733 (mobile), or email Maggie@DeZerlin.com

Captions of Images Provided:

IMAGE 1 - Lin Zhang and Mohammed Khalid Signing

In the photo from left to right: Stephen Ellison, Minister Counsellor Energy, Infrastructure, Creative, and Sports at the UK Department for International Trade (DIT); Mohammed Khalid, CEO Zycon Media (UK); Liam Fox, UK Secretary of State for International Trade; Lin Zhang, CEO DeZerlin Media (China).

Beijing, February 1 2018: Mohammed Khalid, CEO of UK's Zycon Media and Lin Zhang, CEO of China's DeZerlin Media, sign a 10-picture animated film and television co-finance and co-production deal at a UK-China trade conference hosted by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

IMAGE 2 - Lin Zhang, CEO

Lin Zhang, Founder and CEO of China's DeZerlin Media, speaking at the Huaxia Bank Cup 1st Beijing Cultural Creative Innovation And Entrepreneurship Competition.

IMAGE 3 - Lin Zhang, CEO

Lin Zhang, Founder and CEO of China's DeZerlin Media, at the Beijing International Film Festival.

IMAGE 4 - Watch the Skies Poster CAST

Movie poster for the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*.

IMAGE 5 - WTS Izzy Evades the Missiles

Still frame from the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*. Teenage Izzy (Laura Haddock) heroically pilots a helicopter, rescuing her friends Thor, Dylan, and Spinner (Sam Claflin).

IMAGE 6 - WTS Kids Watch Pod Loaded

Still frame from the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*. The kids and their alien friend, St'aar (Asa Butterfield), watch helplessly as his space ship is taken away by alien hunter Peter Fox' (Sean Bean) private security force.

IMAGE 7 - WTS Kids in the Rainforest

Still frame from the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*. Dylan, St'aar (Asa Butterfield), Izzy (Laura Haddock), Spinner (Sam Claflin), and Thor repairing St'aar's space ship in the South American rainforest.

IMAGE 8 - WTS Dylan Look Book

Promotional image from the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*. The character of Dylan, a 10-year-old girl trying to rescue her new alien friend.

IMAGE 9 - WTS Izzy Look Book

Promotional image from the animated feature, *Watch the Skies*. Although only a teenager, the courageous Izzy (Laura Haddock) is an extraordinary pilot.

IMAGE 10 - Codename Furball Teaser Poster

Teaser poster for the animated action-comedy *Codename: Furball*, the second picture in the DeZerlin-Zycon co-production slate.