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RE: Meet the most innovative Swiss startups of 2021

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SWITZERLAND'S LEADING STARTUP COMPETITION ANNOUNCES MOST INNOVATIVE SWISS STARTUPS

MapTiler Wins 2021 Grand Prize of >>venture>>

Guy Parmelin delivered special message to the winners of the >>venture>> Award Ceremony

13/9/21 ZURICH-- >>venture>>, Switzerland's leading startup competition, celebrated Switzerland's most promising startups Monday evening. Determined by a jury of industry experts, seasoned CEOs of Switzerland's most successful corporations, and investors, the competition announced the winner of the 2021 Grand Prize, MapTiler, a software mapping platform building a new generation of tailor-made smart maps.

Beating out not only the top 15 winners across 5 different industry verticals, MapTiler also ranked first amongst an unprecedented 357 business submissions to the competition. The reward was CHF 150,000 in non-dilutive funds and the proud title of being the most promising early-stage startup in Switzerland.

Held at the prestigious ETH Zurich University, the importance of innovative startups for Switzerland was highlighted by a message from special guest, Swiss President, Guy Parmelin.

"This is a particularly interesting edition of the competition because we are seeing history in the making," said Dr. Lea Firmin, CEO of the >>venture>> foundation. "These are startups that were founded in the middle of a pandemic. Their ideas stemmed from unprecedented times, where the world took a step back and began to reassess everything."

The competition is co-organized by some of the most innovative Swiss institutions: ETH Zurich, McKinsey & Company, Knecht Holding, Innosuisse, and EPFL. Established in 1997, >>venture>> ranks and celebrates the top 3 winners in the five categories that represent the pillars of the Swiss economy.

To celebrate these forward-thinking innovators, >>venture>> awarded over CHF 500,000 in non-dilutive funds, business consulting packages from McKinsey & Company and mentorship by an extensive high-profile network of industry experts to the following 2021 >>venture>> winners:

Finance & Insurance

First place: [Lyyna](#) (Zurich): Empowers banks to unleash the full value from payment data and offer insurance for small purchases to their customers.

Second place: [aisot](#) (Zurich): Builds the next generation (predictive) analytics tools, with an early focus on digital assets.

Third place: [Ignatica](#) (Bern): Their core platform helps insurers grow their markets, increase profitability, and service customers digitally.

Health & Nutrition

First place: [Luya Foods](#) (Bern): Provides flavor loaded and natural plant-based alternatives to meat from rescued resources.

Second place: [Pipra](#) (Zurich): Aims to reduce the enormous burden of postoperative complications by identifying high-risk patients prior to surgery thanks to an AI-powered software licensed to hospitals.

Third place: [Inanna Fertility](#) (Zurich): Revolutionizing in-vitro-fertilizations through AI-powered clinical decision support for IVF clinics.

ICT

First place: [MapTiler](#) (Zug): Software platform for building a new generation of tailor-made smart maps. Trusted by brands such as SBB, Siemens, IBM, or NASA.

Second place: [Lumiphase](#) (Zurich): Our communication chips boosted by a unique optical crystal allow all of us to be better connected at faster speeds.

Third place: [Nimagna](#) (Zurich): Nimagna's immersive video technology allows for a true sense of presence in remote collaboration allowing for less business travel, reduction in costs, and lowering the world's carbon footprint.

Industrials & Engineering

First place: [NaturLoop](#) (Biel): NaturLoop engineers biocomposites made from agricultural waste coupled with bio-based adhesives and develops the required technology to produce them on an industrial scale.

Second place: [Infrascreen](#) (Neuchatel): Infrascreen develops an innovative nano-material used to increase the energy efficiency of agricultural greenhouses. Greenhouses are both more profitable and more sustainable - drastically cutting their CO2 emissions.

Third place: [Cowa Thermal Solutions](#) (Basel): Cowa is developing compact thermal energy storages to boost renewables in buildings and in thermal energy systems. The technology is based on capsules filled with a high energy density material based on sustain.

Retail & Consumer Services

First place: [Boostbar](#) (Zurich): Provides the most affordable and sustainable solution for healthy meals and personal coffee breaks for small business to large corporates.

Second place: [Bottle+](#) (St. Gallen): Bottle+ is a reusable, modular water bottle for a healthy and sustainable lifestyle on-the-go. They create sparkling water anytime anywhere, eliminating the need for single use plastic bottles.

Third place: [Jawsome](#) (Geneva): Developed the first smart teeth whitening kit that is connected to an app and is made in Switzerland. Thanks to their innovative technology, users can track their progress and receive a tailor-made program that adapts over time.

The audience also had their say in their favorite innovation. Presented by the Swiss French broadcast station, RTS, the Swiss public voted for Modus Operandi, an application that has the capability to scan handwritten math solution paths, verify them, and give hints about why a calculation step is right or wrong, as the winner of the 2021 Audience Award. They were awarded CHF 10,000 to kickstart their entrepreneurial journey.

A replay of the >>venture>> Award Ceremony can be found on their Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/ventureoffice> starting September 14, 2021.

About >>venture>>

>>venture>> is Switzerland's leading and largest annual startup competition co-organized by ETH Zurich, McKinsey & Company, Knecht Holding, Innosuisse, and EPFL. Established in 1997, it is governed by the non-profit >>venture>> foundation with the purpose of empowering entrepreneurs and fostering innovation across Switzerland. Participants can apply each year under one of the following five industry verticals: Finance & Insurance, Health & Nutrition, ICT, Industrials & Engineering, and Retail & Customer Services. >>venture>> offers a total of CHF 510,000 in non-dilutive funds, mentorship, and an extensive network of experts. For more information, please visit www.venture.ch or contact office@venture.ch.