

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Grand Prize Winner Borobotics: For Geothermal Energy in Inner Cities

>>venture>>, Switzerland's leading startup competition, named the best startup in Switzerland yesterday. And the winner is... Borobotics! Other prizes were also awarded during the Award Ceremony at ETH Zurich. Get to know the 6 best startups now! Actors from business, politics, and science also celebrated a lavish event.

ZURICH - June 17, 2024

This Monday evening, the time had come: Thomas Knecht, the founder of >>venture>> and long-standing head of McKinsey Switzerland, took to the stage and announced: "And the winner is... Borobotics!" The startup has developed an innovative geothermal drilling robot for places with limited space, such as city centers or basements. The drill is called "Grabowski" and measures just 2 meters – conventional models are 6 meters tall.

Knecht is visibly enthusiastic about the startup from Winterthur. He says: "It makes an important contribution to the energy transition by tapping into geothermal energy in a new way – namely much more cheaply and in places where it was previously very difficult or not possible."

Over the past weeks and months, a high-caliber jury reviewed 329 applications and selected the Grand Prize Winner, who will receive CHF 150,000 in prize money plus a business consulting package from McKinsey & Company.

"I am impressed by the quality of the startups," says Ulrich J. Looser, Chairman of the Board of the >>venture>> foundation, "Switzerland will soon witness more major entrepreneurial successes." Looser is particularly pleased: "We have a high proportion of women this year, with 6 of the 18 winners having at least one female founder."

The Award Ceremony was hosted by Annina Frey (entrepreneur, former SRF presenter, DJ/producer). In addition to the Grand Prize Winner, the winners from six verticals were honored. The total prize money amounts to almost 600,000 Swiss francs.

The 6 best startups in Switzerland

Below, you will find a summary of the winners in each of the 6 verticals and the Audience Award Winner:

FINANCE & INSURANCE

CLIMADA Technologies has developed a novel tool for analyzing climate risks, enabling the evaluation of global asset portfolios, forecasting, and assessing potential measures. **Location:** Zurich, **Web:** climada.tech

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Eviive aims to revolutionize the discovery of biomarkers for precision diagnostics with its platform. **Location:** Zurich, **Web:** eviive.ch

ICT

Rapidata offers a solution for a major challenge in the booming AI industry: the startup can collect large amounts of human feedback - quickly and at low cost. This feedback can be used to improve AI models and their results. **Location:** Zurich, **Web:** rapidata.ai

INDUSTRIALS & ENGINEERING

Borobotics has developed an innovative geothermal drilling robot for locations with limited space, such as city centers. The drill is called "Grabowski" and measures 2 meters - conventional models are 6 meters tall. **Location:** Winterthur, **Web:** borobotics.ch

RETAIL & CONSUMER SERVICES

Brian is an AI-powered learning platform that helps teachers create individualized and engaging learning environments on students' smartphones based on existing learning materials. **Location:** Zurich, **Web:** brian.study

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ALIEN Limited offers authorities a solution to combat the quagga mussel by converting it into bio-based raw materials and energy. The quagga mussel is currently spreading in European and North American lakes, causing millions of dollars of damages. **Location:** Lausanne, **Web:** ---

AUDIENCE AWARD

Genius Loci highlights hidden secrets of your region and helps to preserve the local heritage in a sustainable and interactive way. **Location:** Vaud, **Web:** geniusloci.com

THE PRIZES

These teams will each receive CHF 50,000 and a business consulting package from McKinsey & Company. The Grand Prize is endowed with CHF 150,000, and the Audience Award with CHF 10,000.

This year's trends: all the winning teams are helping to solve the major challenges facing humanity.

- **Yes, we care:** 9 of the 18 startups are directly or indirectly active in the sustainability sector, and all startups have a connection to at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Advantage Zurich:** 12 of the 18 startups come from the canton of Zurich, 5 of which are spin-offs from ETH Zurich.
- **Female entrepreneurship:** 6 out of the 18 startups have at least one female founder.

About >>venture>>

>>venture>> is Switzerland's leading startup competition. Many former participants are among the most successful startups in the country. They have made major IPOs or been sold for millions.

Examples include Sensirion (IPO, over 1200 employees), Glycart (sold to Roche for 235 million dollars), and Sophia Genetics (IPO in the USA with a valuation of 1.14 billion dollars – considered a "unicorn"). >>venture>> was founded in 1997 and has so far supported more than 4,500 startup teams that have created over 15,000 jobs.

In the picture: COO / CFO Moritz Pill (left) and CEO Hans-Jörg Dennig from Borobotics

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