

## PRESS RELEASE

### >>VENTURE>> AWARDS CHF 350,000 TO SWITZERLAND'S MOST INNOVATIVE STARTUPS

**1 July 2019, ZURICH**-- >>venture>>, Switzerland's leading startup competition, awarded a total of CHF 350,000 to the top 10 winners at their Award Ceremony in ETH Zurich yesterday evening. Starting this year, >>venture>>, has been revamped and has doubled its overall prize money in order to continue to drive innovation across Switzerland. The competition has launched a leaner version in 2019 which now consists of submitting a 10-20-page business case under one of the following 3 verticals: Health & Nutrition, Hardware, or Software & Services.

>>venture>> awarded the 3 best ranked startups within each industry vertical with CHF 80'000 in total. The stakes were even higher as the three first-place winners in each vertical had to pitch in front of the >>venture>> advisory board in hopes of being crowned the 2019 >>venture>> Grand Prize winner and taking home an additional CHF 100,000.

Media partner, Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, televised the revelation of the Grand Prize at the award ceremony live on Schweiz Aktuell. The 2019 >>venture>> winner was DePoly, they have developed a novel solution allowing the chemical recycling of PET plastic back to its two main components, facilitating a more circular economy.

Below are the results of the 2019 >>venture>> competition.

The Health & Nutrition Vertical Winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sleepiz- Zurich
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Microcaps- Zurich
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Haya Therapeutics- Lausanne

The Hardware Vertical Winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: DePoly- Sion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: EH Engineering- Renens
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Bloom Biorenewables- Renens

The Software & Services Vertical Winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Legartis- Zurich
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Teserakt- Lausanne
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Musa- Zurich/Milano

“The new format attracted an unprecedented amount of applications this year, which we're really proud of, but was no easy feat for our jurors. They had a big challenge of choosing only 9 winners out of so many and diverse submissions.” stated Dr. Lea Firmin, CEO of >>venture>>.

With the support of Radio Télévision Suisse RTS, >>venture>> organized a public vote for the Audience Award. The winner, Planted Foods, which received the most votes from the Swiss people, took home a CHF 10,000 cash prize. Planted Foods creates tasty 'meat' directly from plants and skips the animal. Thei plant-based meat is sustainable, healthy and cruelty-free.

“This year's competition has surpassed our expectations by far and we are extremely proud of our winners, who will do great things in the near future undoubtedly,” said Thomas Knecht, founder of the >>venture>> competition and Chairman of the >>venture>> foundation. “We are especially

thankful to our advisory board members, mentors, jurors and without whom we could not successfully support these innovative startups on their entrepreneurial journey.”

The 2020 edition of the >>venture>> competition will open next January. To learn more about the competition, visit [www.venture.ch](http://www.venture.ch).

#### **ABOUT >>venture>>**

>>venture>> is Switzerland’s leading 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. Alumni of the competition, conceived in 1997 to empower young entrepreneurs to venture forward in their startup journey, have created 700 companies and 7000 jobs. The competition is supported by an Advisory Board consisting of many of the most important corporations in Switzerland. Participants can apply starting January each year under one of the following three industry verticals: Health & Nutrition, Hardware, and Software & Services. >>venture>> offers a total of CHF 350,000 in non-dilutive funds, mentorship and an extensive network of experts. For more information, please visit [www.venture.ch](http://www.venture.ch)

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