Press release

Uepaa (!!) and ActLight win CHF 130.000

St. Gall/Zurich/Lausanne, February 1, 2012. – Zurich's Uepaa(!!) and Lausanne's ActLight are the newest winner of the startup-initiative venture kick. They were both able to convince the committee of experts and investors in third and last round of the competition. Uepaa(!!) is developing a rescue-app for alpinists, ActLight is working on a new generation of solar-modules.

Which one of the competing innovative startup-projects is the most likely to breakthrough on the market? That was the question to which four promising companies, still in the early-phase of their venture, wanted to answer in Lausanne. ActLight and Uepaa(!!) ended up making the final cut, winning an additional 130.000 Swiss francs in seed-capital as a well deserved prize.

A «guardian-angel» for all alpinists

About 25 million people go climbing in the Alps every year and the majority of them, don't take all the necessary precautions, in case of something going wrong. In those situations, every second counts. Mathias Haussmann, founder and CEO of Uepaa(!!) - Swiss Alpine Technology, together with his co-founder Dr. Franck Legendre, is developing an application for smartphones which in future, will be able to track down people in distress – even then, when the victims don't have any coverage or are buried under snow. A new network technology developed at the ETH Zurich, can make several smartphones connect with one another within a certain perimeter, even in the absence of any mobile-network coverage, enabling a distress call to get out and to alert the appropriate rescue-service. The team has been able to convince the juries of several business-plan competitions and attract several partners and investors such as Mammut and Rega. Just a few days ago, Haussmann has announced the conclusion of a successful funding round, bringing in millions to the project.

ActLight: the future of solar-technology

Conventional solar-cells, still to this day remain very bulky and perform poorly when used for small electronics solutions is deployed in suboptimal lighting conditions. The startup of co-founder and CEO Serguei Okhonin, has developed minuscule solar-modules, which thanks to its integration on semiconductor chips, are able to address these problems by enhancing their respective performances by a factor of one-thousand. Potential applications for this product are numerous, e.g. in the context of monitoring the environment, mesure energy consumption or follow personal health status with help of wireless sensors. ActLight was able to gain favor with several investors in the past month and several major industry players have expressed their interest in the potential of the new technology. Founded in October last year, the company was shortly afterwards already able to make the finals of the Swiss Technology Awards. The task at hand now, is to further develop the prototype and to secure additional financing, so as to achieve the planned product-launch in 2014.
Having an edge when securing additional financing thanks to venture kick

Both winners can look back upon a 9-month period with venture kick where they were able to score significant points with investors. Looking back, Mathias Haussmann comments: «Without venture kick, Uepaa(!!) would definitely not be in the position it is now in. The initial seed-capital and the extremely valuable coaching and training-camps contributed significantly to the fact, that I was not only able to found the company at the end of January, but also to a first successful financing round, generating over 1.5 million CHF in capital. All in all it was the best «kick» that I have ever received!» Act Light’s Fredrik Uddegard added that: «venture kick was an excellent context for us, enabling us to define a successful strategy. The program has helped us to get to the point where we were able to take some major steps in tandem with our global partners.»

Mehr über venture kick

The private initiative venture kick is financed by the GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG, the ERNST GÖHNER foundation, the OPO foundation, the AVINA STIFTUNG and FONDATION 1796. The project is managed by the IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen in St. Gall. The objective of the initiative is to double the amount of startups originating from Swiss universities and technical colleges. The program is open to business visionaries which are active at a Swiss university, technical college or higher institution of learning (students, doctoral-students, professors, etc.), which haven't founded their company yet. Candidates can apply at any time.

Since its inception in the autumn of 2007, venture kick has awarded 7.5 million francs in prize money, and from an original pool of 900 candidatures, supported and coached over 200 spin-off projects which can trace their origins back to Swiss universities. Our efforts have resulted in the creation of 151 highly innovative companies, which have created 1.700 sustainable jobs. Furthermore, the supported startups have been able to attract equity, loans, support and prize money to the total tune of over 240 million francs.

More informations: www.venturekick.ch

Management German-speaking Switzerland:

Beat Schillig, +41 (71) 242 98 64, +41 (79) 358 04 19
beat.schillig@venturekick.ch

Management Romandy:

Jordi Montserrat, +41 (21) 553 09 88, +41 (78) 708 18 04
jordi.montserrat@venturekick.ch

Media:

Thorsten Hainke, +41 (79) 103 38 63
thorsten.hainke@venturekick.ch
Die bisherigen Gewinner des gesamten Startkapitals von 130'000 Franken

- Bettina Ernst, Preclin Biosystems, ETH Zürich (Biotech), [www.preclinbiosystems.com](http://www.preclinbiosystems.com)
- Manuel Aschwanden, Optotune, ETH Zürich (Optik), [www.optoptune.com](http://www.optoptune.com)
- Patrizia Fischer, Pearltec, ETH Zürich (Medtech), [www.pearltec.ch](http://www.pearltec.ch)
- Martin Bartholet, Celeroton, ETH Zürich (Elektromechanik), [www.celeroton.ch](http://www.celeroton.ch)
- Marc Gitzinger, BioVersys, ETH Zürich (Biotech), [www.bioversys.com](http://www.bioversys.com)
- Sadik Hafizovic, Zurich Instruments, ETH Zürich (Elektronik), [www.zhinst.com](http://www.zhinst.com)
- Wolfgang Moritz, InSphere, Uni Zürich (Biotech), [www.insphero.com](http://www.insphero.com)
- Stefan Tuchschmid, Virtamed, ETH Zürich (Medtech), [www.virtamed.com](http://www.virtamed.com)
- Barbara Yersin, Minsh, EPF Lausanne (Internet), [www.minsh.com](http://www.minsh.com)
- Stephane Doutriaux, Poken, IMD Lausanne (Elektronik/Internet), [www.doyoupoken.com](http://www.doyoupoken.com)
- Jochen Mundinger, RouteRank, EPF Lausanne (Internet), [www.routerank.com](http://www.routerank.com)
- Giorgio Pietromaggiore, labseed, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), [www.labseed.com](http://www.labseed.com)
- Vincent Schickel, Prediggo, EPF Lausanne (Internet), [www.prediggo.com](http://www.prediggo.com)
- Florian Kowalke, Aiducation International, ETH Zürich (NPO), [www.aiducation.org](http://www.aiducation.org)
- Kristin Kapitza, StreamForge, ETH Zürich (Internet), [www.streamforge.com](http://www.streamforge.com)
- Nicolas Burri, StereoTools, EPF Lausanne (MedTech), [www.stereotools.com](http://www.stereotools.com)
- Christophe Canales, Imina Technologies, EPF Lausanne (Nanotech), [www.imina.ch](http://www.imina.ch)
- Ralph Schiess, ProteoMediX, ETH Zürich (Biotech), [www.proteomedi.ch](http://www.proteomedi.ch)
- Christof Roduner, Mirasense, ETH Zürich (Internet), [www.mirasense.com](http://www.mirasense.com)
- Christoph Gebald, Climeworks, ETH Zürich (Cleantech), [www.climeworks.com](http://www.climeworks.com)
- Michael Dupertuis, Geroco, HES-S0 Valais (Cleantech/Internet), [www.geroco.com](http://www.geroco.com)
- Marcus Aebi, Malcisbo, ETH Zürich (Biotech), [www.malcisbo.com](http://www.malcisbo.com)
- Jean-Christophe Zufferey, SenseFly, EPF Lausanne (Elektronik), [www.sensefly.com](http://www.sensefly.com)
- Alfredo E. Bruno, AdvancedOsteotomy Tools, Uni Basel (Medtech), [www.aot-swiss.com](http://www.aot-swiss.com)
- Francesco Dell’Endice, QualySense, Uni Zürich (Industrie), [www.qualysense.com](http://www.qualysense.com)
- Nicolas Durand, Abionic, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), [www.abionic.com](http://www.abionic.com)
- Thorsten Schwenke, ZHAW, Thelkin (Elektronik/Medtech), [www.thelkin.com](http://www.thelkin.com)
- Marc Spafford, deliciouswaste AG, FHNW (Food/E-Commerce), [www.deliciouswaste.ch](http://www.deliciouswaste.ch)
- Martin Odersky, Scala SolutionsSàrl, EPF Lausanne(ICT), [www.scalasolutions.com](http://www.scalasolutions.com)
- Susanne Wechsler, Uni St. Gallen, BOOKBRIDGE FOUNDATION (Social), [www.bookbridge.org](http://www.bookbridge.org)
- Dominik Bell, Aeon Scientific, ETH Zürich (Medtech), [www.aeon-scientific.com](http://www.aeon-scientific.com)
- David Bonzon, Pandora Underwater Equipment, EPFL (Elektronik), [www.pandora-uwe.com](http://www.pandora-uwe.com)
- Amin Shokrollahi, Kandou Technologies, EPF Lausanne (ICT), [www.kandou.com](http://www.kandou.com)
- Nils A. Reinke, Winterthur Instruments, ZHAW(Elektromechanik), [www.winterthurinstruments.com](http://www.winterthurinstruments.com)
- Timo Hafner, Gastros AG, Uni St. Gallen (Food / Materials), [www.gastros.ch](http://www.gastros.ch)
- Andreas Brühlhart, Bcomp, Hochschule für Wirtschaft Freiburg (Materials), [www.bcomp.ch](http://www.bcomp.ch)
- Matthias Haussmann, Uepaa(!!) – Swiss Alpine Technology, ETH Zürich (ICT / Mobile), [www.uepaa.ch](http://www.uepaa.ch)
- Serguei Okhonin, ActLight, EPF Lausanne (Energy), [www.act-light.com](http://www.act-light.com)