OsmoBlue and PB&B won 130,000 CHF each to kick their startup

St Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, February 3rd, 2014. The winners of venture kick are: OsmoBlue, a startup based at EPFL which provides a new way to recycle waste heat into electricity and PB&B, a startup from EPFL as well, is developing bioengineered injections to render aesthetics procedures natural and non-surgical. The two startups now get 130,000 CHF each, the maximum funding granted by venture kick.

Themes of high interest for the whole world are energy efficiency and recovery. Dr. Elodie Dahan, a French micro technology engineer and Dr. Anna Laromaine, a chemist from Spain are the heads behind OsmoBlue. They developed a patented technology which changes low-temperature heat, as low as 30°C, into electricity. Until now no technology was able to convert industrial waste heat under 100°C into electricity. Furthermore the system can recycle heat from wide range of sources like air, water, gas or steam and is based on the principle of osmosis. The electricity which is generated, from hundreds of kW to several MW, can be then directly sold to the electrical grid or consumed by the customer.

**Enough energy for every house in the U.S. and in Europe is unexploited**

Enough energy to power every house in the U.S. and in Europe is released in the form of low-temperature heat by industries. Today, this is unexploited. The team of OsmoBlue is now finalizing its prototype and will realize a pilot unit which can produce 100 kW of electricity. Dr. Elodie Dahan expressed her enthusiasm about venture kick: “The venture kick program provided very constructive feedback and advices to develop OsmoBlue’s business plan. With the funds received OsmoBlue will grow and start developing its first pilot unit.”

**Revolutionary new concept in medical aesthetics**

The CEO from PB&B SA Anthony Aho had just started with the crazy idea of making aesthetic procedures non-surgical and with natural results. Ten years later with a team of highly qualified researchers from the EPFL and the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG) behind PB&B, they have a big chance of revolutionizing the field of aesthetics. They are developing different types of injections of biodegradable microspheres for facial rejuvenation, breast and buttock enhancement, in addition to therapeutic applications such as post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. The effect of their injections is to mimic normal physiological processes. The risks, complications and inconveniences associated with surgery can be eliminated with this technique, while drastically reducing equipment needs and costs.

**The future of aesthetics**

Anthony Aho on the venture kick initiative: "The next 24 months will see the launch of pre-clinical trials necessary to pave the way for clinical trials. venture kick really gave a big momentum to turn PB&B from an idea perceived as impossible, into a company that keeps growing and attracting top tier scientists and doctors. PB&B sets out to raise over 1.5 million in funding in 2014 and is participating to other startup competitions at the European level."
More about venture kick

Since the launch of venture kick on September 26, 2007, 298 project teams have benefited from CHF 11.52 million. It contributed to the creation of more than 2400 newly created jobs and a financing volume about CHF 464 million. These results show that this approach offers a great return for the Swiss economy and its enterprises. Thanks to venture kick, startups learned how to win customers and convince investors more rapidly. The program is open to all young talents with innovative ideas, which have not yet founded their company and are enrolled or employed at a Swiss University: students, postgraduates, researchers and professors.

The private initiative venture kick is financed by the Gebert Rüf Stiftung, ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG, OPO-Stiftung, AVINA STIFTUNG, Fondation Lombard Odier und DEBIOPHARM GROUP. The project is managed by the IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen in St. Gallen. The objective of the initiative is to double the amount of startups originating from Swiss universities and technical colleges. Each month, eight projects get the chance to present themselves to a jury. The four most promising receive CHF 10'000 and automatically qualify for the second round held three months later, where the two best teams receive another CHF 20'000. In the third and final round, taking place six months later, the winner is granted CHF 100’000.

www.venturekick.ch

More about the winners:
OsmoBlue
PB&B

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The previous winners of total 130'000 CHF:

- Bettina Ernst, Precin Biosystems, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.preclinbiosystems.com
- Manuel Aschwanden, Optotune, ETH Zürich (Optik), www.optotune.ch
- Patrizia Fischer, Pearlttec, ETH Zürich (Medtech), www.pearlttec.ch
- Martin Bartholet, Celeroton, ETH Zürich (Elektromechanik), www.celeroton.ch
- Marc Gitzinger, BioVersys, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.bioversys.com
- Sadik Hafizovic, Zurich Instruments, ETH Zürich (Elektronik), www.zhinst.com
- Wolfgang Moritz, InSphero, Uni Zürich (Biotech), www.insphero.com
- Stefan Tuchscher, Virtamed, ETH Zürich (Medtech), www.virtamed.com
- Stephane Doutriaux, Poken, IMD Lausanne (Elektronik/Internet), www.poken.com
- Jochen Mundinger, RouteRank, EPF Lausanne (Internet), www.routerrank.com
- Vincent Schickel, Prediggo, EPF Lausanne (Internet), www.prediggo.com
- Florian Kowalke, Alducation International, ETH Zürich (NPO), www.aiducation.org
- Benoit Dagon, Inima Technologies, EPF Lausanne (Nanotech), www.inima.ch
- Ralph Schiess, ProteoMediX, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.proteomedix.ch
- Christoph Roduner, Mirasense, ETH Zürich (Internet), www.mirasense.com
- Christoph Gebald, Climeworks, ETH Zürich (Cleantech), www.climeworks.com
- Michael Dupertuis, Geroco, HES-SO Valais (Cleantech), www.geroco.com
- Marcus Aebi, Malcisbo, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.malisbo.com
- Jean-Christophe Zufferey, SenseFly, EPF Lausanne (Elektronik), www.sensfly.com
- Alfredo E. Bruno, AdvancedOsteotomy Tools, Uni Basel (Medtech), www.aot-swiss.com
- Francesco Dell’Endice, QualySense, Uni Zürich (Industrie), www.qualysense.com
- Nicolas Durand, Abionic, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.abionic.com
- Thorsten Schwenke, Thelkin, ZHAW (Elektronik/Medtech), www.thelkin.com
- Martin Odersky, Scala Solutions Sàrl, EPF Lausanne (ICT), www.scalasolutions.com
- Susanne Wechslser, BOOKBRIDGE, Uni St. Gallen (Social), www.bookbridge.org
- Dominik Bell, Aeon Scientific, ETH Zürich (Medtech), www.aeon-scientific.com
- David Bonzon, Pandora Underwater Equipment, EPF Lausanne, www.pandora-uwe.com
- Amin Shokrollahi, Kandou Technologies, EPF Lausanne (ICT), www.kandou.com
- Timo Hafner, GastroS AG, Uni St. Gallen (Food Materials), www.gastroS.ch
- Andreas Brühlart, Bcomp, Hochschule für Wirtschaft Freiburg (Materials), www.bcomp.ch
- Matthias Hausmann, Uepaa(!!), ETH Zürich (ICT Mobile), www.uepaa.ch
- Serguei Okhonin, ActLight, EPF Lausanne (Energy), www.act-light.com
- Andreas Graber, UrbanFarmers, ZHAW (Cleantech), www.urbanfarmers.ch
- Ricardo Beira, DistalMotion, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.distalmotion.com
- Olivier Küng, Pix4D, EPF Lausanne (ICT Multimedia), www.pix4d.com
- Emile de Rijk, SWISSto12, EPF Lausanne (Electronics), www.swissto12.ch
- Daniel Lepori, Designergy SA, SUPSI/ISAAC (Energy), www.designergy.ch
- Yann Tissot, L.E.S.S – Light Efficient SystemS SA, EPF Lausanne (Energy), www.less-optic.com
- Felix Holzner, SwissLitho, ETH (Nano), www.swisslitho.ch
- Carlos Ruiz, Flatev, UZH (Food/Electronics), www.flatev.com
- Christian Wolfrum, Glycemon, ETH (Biotech), www.glycemon.ch
- Philipp Kirchhoff, Koring, Uni Basel (Medtech), www.koring.ch
- Chad Brokopp, Mabimmune Diagnostics AG (Biotech), www.mabimmune.com
- Benoit de Combaud, CombaGroup SA (Biotech/Food), www.combagroup.com
- Thibaut Weise, faceshift AG (ICT/Software), www.faceshift.com
- Patrick Nef, TransCure Bioscience Holding SA (Biotech), www.transcurebiosciences.com
- Arthur Queval, Qloudlab SA (Medtech), http://qloudlab.com
- Boris Danev, 3db Access AG (Electronics), www.3db-technologies.com
- Arthur Queval, Qloudlab SA (Medtech), www.qloudlab.com
- Boris Danev, 3db Access (Software), www.3db-technologies.com
- Marie-Christine Fluet, ReHaptix GmbH (Medtech), www.rehaptix.com
- Julie Garg, CashSentinel SA (E-Commerce), www.cashsentinel.com

Complete list of the startup projects of venture kick: www.venturekick.ch/startups