130.000 CHF kick for an app against skin cancer and the "chairless" chair

St Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, June 4th, 2014. The ETH Zürich spin-offs Bitsplitters with wearable UV awareness technology in daily life and noonee bringing a new era of wearable ergonomic leg devices won 130.000 CHF each, the maximum funding granted by venture kick.

The “final kick” was again awarded to high potential businesses. All startups made big steps since the first venture kick session: they brought their products to market, got media attention and finalized their business plan. The other finalists, Dermalockin which develops a new infrared camera for early diagnosis of skin cancer, and Flatastic, a new app for facilitating the life of people sharing apartments, also strongly impressed the jury members. All these startups are active in different fields, but have in common that they contribute to the well-being of people.

Enjoy the sun responsibly with Bitsplitters
UV radiation leads to skin cancer with increasing worldwide prevalence. By reducing the personal UV exposure, one can effectively lower the risk of skin cancer. Therefore, tracking the UV radiation wherever you are and get immediate feedback on smartphones can be really helpful to understand the effects of the sun in everyday life. Bitsplitters, one of the venture leaders 2014, makes it possible to become aware of the UV exposure with its sunbeat UV sensing technology, based on the smallest autonomous UV sensor in the world. The sensor can be integrated into clothes, hats, and sunglasses. It is wearable, washable, and has wireless connection to the smartphone. In addition, its mobile app offers data interpretation and visualization. The patented sensing technology is the result of a research project at ETH Zürich in collaboration with dermatologists. Samuel Welten, Bitsplitters CEO: "The support we received from venture kick through financing and consulting helped us to develop our project that existed only as an idea in the beginning, into an exciting startup. The straight, honest, and substantiated advices from the venture kick staff and the jury is the kind of advice that is essential for startups, but rarely found in the world of business.”

Sitting without a chair
The chairless chair ETH spin-off noonee was the second winner. Their futuristic looking leg exoskeleton enables factory workers to relax their muscles and sit down during work - without the need for a chair. The device is worn on the legs and allows the user freedom to walk or run, but once activated, the chairless chair holds the users’ bodyweight in the positions he wants to. The lightweight mechatronic device helps to relieve the stress on leg muscles and joints. In the future it can reduce healthcare and associated costs. It is indeed a chair that walks with you. “venture kick really helped us focus our resources on what we had to do and also provide us some finances to develop the business. Without them we would have had a tough time travelling and marketing. We are presently doing a product design and also preparing a pilot to install our product in factory sites of a big car manufacturer in Germany. Our next steps will be to industrialize,” said Keith Gunura, CEO from noonee, just before flying to the US with the venture leaders, where he will lead the Swiss National Startup Team as captain.
More about venture kick
Since the launch of venture kick on September 26, 2007, 310 project teams have benefited from CHF 11.98 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, DEBIOPHARM GROUP and André Hoffmann. 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:
Bitsplitters
noonee

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The previous winners of total 130’000 CHF:
- Wolfgang Moritz, InSphero, Uni Zürich (Biotech), www.insphero.com
- Stefan Tuchschmid, Virtamed, ETH Zürich (Medtech), www.virtamed.com
- Stephane Doutriaux, Poken, IMD Lausanne (Internet), www.poken.com
- Jochen Mundinger, RouteRank, EPF Lausanne (Internet), www.routerrank.com
- Vincent Schickel, Prediggo, EPF Lausanne (Internet), www.prediggo.com
- Florian Kowalke, Aiducation International, ETH Zürich (NPO), www.aiducation.org
- Benoît Dagon, Inma Technologies, ETH Zürich (NPO), www.imina.ch
- Ralph Schiess, ProteoMediX, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.proteomedix.ch
- Christof Roduner, Mirasense, ETH Zürich (Internet), www.mirasense.com
- Christoph Gebald, Climeworks, ETH Zürich (Cleantech), www.climeworks.com
- Michael Dupertuis, Geroco, HES-SO Vaalais (Cleantech/Internet), www.geroco.com
- Marcus Aebi, Malcisbo, ETH Zürich (Biotech), www.malcisbo.com
- Jean-Christophe Zufferey, SenseFly, EPF Lausanne (Electronics), www.sensefly.com
- Alfredo E. Bruno, AdvancedOsteotomy Tools, Uni Basel (Medtech), www.aot-swiss.com
- Nicolas Durand, Abionic, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.abionic.com
- Thorsten Schwenke, Thelkin, ZHAW (Medtech), www.thelkin.com
- Martin Odersky, Scala Solutions Sàrl, EPF Lausanne (ICT), www.scalasolutions.com
- Dominik Bell, Aeon Scientific, ETH Zürich (Medtech), www.aeon-scientific.com
- David Bonzoni, Pandora Underwater Equipment, EPF Lausanne, www.pandora-uwe.com
- Amin Shokrollahi, Kandou Technologies, EPF Lausanne (ICT), www.kandou.com
- Timo Halner, Gastros AG, Uni St. Gallen (Food Materials), www.gastros.ch
- Andreas Brüllhart, Bcomp, Hochschule für Wirtschaft Freiburg (Materials), www.bcomp.ch
- Matthias Haussmann, 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, SWISSSto12, EPF Lausanne (Electronics), www.swisssto12.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, Glycemicon, ETH (Biotech), www.glycemicon.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, Quolablab SA (Medtech), http://quolablab.com
- Boris Danev, 3db Access AG (Electronics), www.3db-technologies.com
- Marie-Christine Fluet, ReHaptix GmbH (Medtech), www.rehaptix.com
- Julie Garg, CashSentinel SA (E-Commerce), www.cashsentinel.com
- Anthony Aho, PB&B SA (Medtech), www.pbbtech.ch
- Elodie Dahan, OsmoBlue Sàrl, (Cleantech), www.osmoblu.com
- Rolf Luchsinger, TwingTec AG (Cleantech), www.twingtec.ch
- Matthias Meier, CALCISCO AG (Biotech), www.calcisco.com

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