Media release

TOP100 2015: The 100 best Swiss startups

Lausanne, Zurich, St. Gallen, September 17th, 2015 – According to global innovation rankings, Switzerland is recognized as a true innovation champion worldwide. After the “TOP100 Swiss Startup Award” gala in Lausanne on September 16th, 2015, the audience knows why. Startups which are based on high level research from internationally renowned Swiss universities catch the attention of worldwide industry leaders. Not surprising that the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland in Bern Suzan LeVine was also present to discover this year’s best 100 Swiss startups chosen for the fifth time by 100 Swiss innovation experts. Discover the 100 best startups of Switzerland now.

100 experts, 1 word: instinct

Since 2011, 100 experts choose their 10 favorite Swiss startups. Many of those experts are investors. They count on their instinct to pick the young companies with the best success potential. There is only one condition: The startups must be younger than 5 years (a startup created in 2010 cannot be part of the TOP100 ranking anymore). And the reliability of the experts has been proven: 90 of the 100 startups nominated in the TOP100 of 2011 are still active. 14 of them have succeeded in making their exit such as Covagen acquired by Johnson & Johnson for CHF 220 Million. Or Composyt Light Labs and Lemoptix by Intel. Moreover, TOP100 startups could close financial rounds worth millions, such as the Nr. 1 Swiss startup of 2014 and leading supplier of organotypic, biological in vitro 3D microtissues for highly predictive drug testing InSphero, who raised CHF 20 Million in June.

And the winners are: Better light, faster allergy tests and a drone

This year, the first place of the TOP100 Swiss Startups goes to the cleantech startup L.E.S.S. Their entirely new lighting technology (called ‘Light Efficient SystemS’, or L.E.S.S. for short) is in many respects far superior to the LED lights that have supplanted conventional light bulbs in the market. If the startup prevails, it might spell lights out for LED lighting before too long. The second place goes to Abionic and their revolutionary allergy test, the first in the world capable of providing results directly at doctor’s office and pharmacies. The third place is attributed to a newcomer in the TOP100 this year and a flagship of Swiss flying robotics: Flyability. Their drone “Gimball” can fly in difficult environments, such as for inspection or rescue, while remaining stable and without danger for humans.

The best out of 100’000 startups

Most of the TOP100 2015 startups come from the high tech domains of ICT, Life Sciences or Nanotechnology. They are not all based in Lausanne or Zurich (mainly as the Technical universities EPF Lausanne and ETH Zurich spin-offs). Some young companies come from different Swiss economical hubs, such as Polyneuron Pharmaceuticals from the Life Science cluster Basel (rank 39). The ranking also carries an innovative jeans producer, a urban farms maker, a fine crop analyst or a Fintech startup that takes away the pain of managing one's financial life.

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