**Media release / for immediate release**

**Hansjörg Wyss supports VENTURE KICK**

St.Gallen / Zurich / Lausanne, January 20th, 2015 – The Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss will support VENTURE KICK for the next five years, significantly contributing to the development of high potential business ideas emerging from Switzerland’s best institutions of higher learning.

Hansjörg Wyss is founder and honorary chairman of the global medical device manufacturer Synthes, which was acquired by Johnson & Johnson in 2012. He also is a leading philanthropist committed to science and research, in particular in the fields of biology and medicine. Over the past decade, he has been supporting a number of important universities and research institutes around the world, among them Harvard University, ETH Zurich, University of Zurich and Geneva Biotech Campus. Recently, Mr. Wyss made a donation to ETH Zurich and University of Zurich for the new Wyss Translational Center Zurich.

**Contributing to Switzerland’s high competitiveness**

Mr. Wyss is delighted to join the private consortium of VENTURE KICK and strongly supports its mission: “Turning scientific innovation into entrepreneurial activity and job creation is the basis of our societal and economic prosperity. As an entrepreneur, I know how difficult it is for very early stage startups to turn into promising business cases. Supporting these entrepreneurs is a guarantee for the future of our country and its internationally renowned competitiveness. Together with the other donators, I am committed to kick Swiss innovation into global markets”.

**Closing a gap in the Swiss innovation chain**

Pascale Vonmont, Delegate of VENTURE KICK’s strategic committee and Deputy Director of Gebert Rüf Stiftung, is welcoming Hansjörg Wyss with open arms: “The unique accelerator program VENTURE KICK has a proven track record and the support of Hansjörg Wyss can leverage Switzerland’s innovative potential even more effectively.”

**A clear recognition and a strong message for entrepreneurs**

“Ambitious startups get an encouraging signal to follow their vision and embrace the entrepreneurial path”, says Jordi Montserrat, Managing Director of VENTURE KICK in the French speaking part of Switzerland. “To experience a world class entrepreneur such as Mr. Wyss teaming up with the VENTURE KICK initiative and consortium is a major recognition for its efforts. We are encouraged pursuing our mission to bring more promising startups on the path to success”, concludes Beat Schillig, Managing Director of VENTURE KICK in the German speaking part of Switzerland.
More about VENTURE KICK

Since the launch of VENTURE KICK in 2007, some 350 project teams have benefited from the overall support of CHF 13.76 Million. The program has contributed to the creation of 3,038 new jobs for highly qualified people and to a financing volume of CHF 602 Million. 58 of the actual «TOP 100 Swiss Startups» started with VENTURE KICK. Eight are even in the top 10: InSphero, L.E.S.S., Abionic, HouseTrip, QualySense, Bcomp, Climeworks and Dacuda. These results show that the VENTURE KICK approach creates a great benefit for the Swiss economy and its workplace.

Double the number of spin-offs

The mission of VENTURE KICK is the early identification, structuring and promotion of promising business ideas with a clear vision: To double the number of spin-offs at Swiss universities and to raise the attractiveness of these young companies for Swiss and international investors. Thanks to VENTURE KICK, startups learn how to win customers and convince investors more rapidly. They benefit from hands-on execution boot camps (the kickers camps) and from quick access to extensive business networks. The program is open to young talents with innovative business ideas, who have not yet founded their company and are still enrolled or employed at Swiss institutions of higher learning: students, postgraduates, researchers and professors.

VENTURE KICK is highly competitive. Each month, eight projects get the chance to present themselves to a jury. The four most promising then receive CHF 10,000 and qualify for the second round held three months later, where the two best teams receive another CHF 20,000 each. In the third and final round, taking place six months later, the winner is granted CHF 100,000.

The VENTURE KICK initiative has been financed so far by Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Avina Stiftung, OPO-Stiftung, Fondation Lombard Odier, Debiopharm Group and André Hoffmann. With its new member Hansjörg Wyss, this private consortium of foundations and entrepreneurs will be even more committed.

www.venturekick.ch
The following selected startups have been supported by VENTURE KICK:

- Abionic SA, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.abionic.com
- ActLight SA, EPF Lausanne (Cleantech), www.act-light.com
- Aeon Scientific AG, ETH Zurich (Medtech), www.aeon-scientific.com
- Aiducation International, ETH Zurich (Others), www.aiducation.org
- Aleva Neurotherapeutics SA, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.aleva-neuro.com
- Attolight SA, EPF Lausanne (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.attolight.com
- Bcomp AG, HEG-FR - Haute école de Gestion (Cleantech), www.bcomp.ch
- BioVersys AG, ETH Zurich (Biotech), www.bioversys.com
- CALCISCO AG, Uni Bern (Biotech), www.calcisco.com
- CashSentinel SA, IMD Lausanne (Internet, Mobile), www.cashsentinel.com
- Climeworks AG, ETH Zurich (Cleantech), www.climeworks.com
- Composyt Light Labs SA, EPF Lausanne (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.composyt.com
- Compliant Concept AG, ETH Zurich (Medtech), www.compliant-concept.ch
- Dacuda AG, ETH Zurich (Internet, Mobile), www.dacuda.com
- DistalMotion SA, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.distalmotion.com
- eSMART Technologies Sàrl, EPF Lausanne (Cleantech), www.myesmart.ch
- Fastree 3D SA, EPF Lausanne (Electronics, Mechanics), http://aqua.epfl.ch
- Geosatis SA, EPF Lausanne (Electronics, Mechanics), www.geo-satis.com
- greenTEG AG, ETH Zurich (Cleantech), www.greenteg.com
- G-Therapeutics, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.gtherapeutics.com
- HouseTrip SA, EHL - Ecole Hoteliere (Internet, Mobile), www.housetrip.com
- InSphero AG, Uni Zurich (Biotech), www.insphero.com
- Jilion SA, EPF Lausanne (Software), www.jilion.com
- Kandou Bus SA, EPF Lausanne (Cleantech), www.kandou.com
- KeyLemon SA, HES-SO Valais (Software), www.keylemon.com
- Koring GmbH, Uni Basel (Medtech), www.koring.ch
- L.E.S.S. - Light Efficient System SA, EPF Lausanne (Cleantech), www.less-optics.com
- Lemoptix SA, EPF Lausanne (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.lemoptix.com
- Lunaphore Technologies SA, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.lunaphore.com
- MindMaze SA, EPF Lausanne (Medtech), www.mindmaze.com
- Nanolive SA, EPF Lausanne (Biotech), www.nanolive.ch
- noonee AG, ETH Zurich (Medtech), www.noonee.ch
- Optotune AG, ETH Zurich (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.optotune.com
- PB&B SA, Uni Genève (Biotech), www.pbtech.ch
- Pix4D SA, EPF Lausanne (Software), www.pix4d.com
- ProteoMedIX AG, ETH Zurich (Biotech), www.proteomedix.com
- Poken SA, IMD Lausanne (Internet, Mobile), www.doyoupoken.com
- QGei SA, EPF Lausanne (Biotech), www.qgelbio.com
- QualySense AG, Uni Zurich (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.qualysense.com
- Relish Brothers GmbH, HSLU - Hochschule Luzern (Others), www.relishguitars.ch
- RealLook AG (Selfnation), ETH Zurich (Internet, Mobile), www.selfnation.ch
- ScanTrust SA, EPF Lausanne (Software), www.scantrust.com
- senseFly SA, EPF Lausanne (Electronics, Mechanics), www.sensefly.com
- SwissLeg Sagl, Università della Svizzera italiana (Medtech), www.swissleg.com
- SwissLitho AG, ETH Zurich (Micro-, Nano Technology), www.swisslitho.com
- Typesafe, EPF Lausanne (Software), www.typesafe.com
- Uepaa AG, FHNW - Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (Internet, Mobile), www.uepaa.ch
- UrbanAlps AG, ETH Zurich (Electronics, Mechanics), www.urbanalps.com
- UrbanFarmers AG, ZHAW (Cleantech), www.urbanfarmers.ch

See the complete list of VENTURE KICK startups here and the projects supported by VENTURE KICK in 2014 here.