

Media release

Fighting drug overdoses and climate change: Two ETH spin-offs kicked by CHF 130.000 each

St. Gallen / Zurich / Lausanne, February 4, 2015 – The ETH Zurich spin-offs Versantis and Adaptricity are starting a new era in the treatment of drug overdoses and the management of power systems – two burning issues in today's society. By winning VENTURE KICK, both startups have secured the total funding amount of CHF 130.000 each.

Michael Jackson, Amy Winehouse and Heath Ledger, to name but a few, are celebrities who died of drug overdoses. Deaths from drug overdose have been rising over the past two decades to become the leading cause of accidental death in industrialized countries. Every day in Europe alone, 260 people die as a result of drug overdose. Until today, no simple and efficient methods are available for the detoxification. Just like drugs, the wastes your body produces can also become life-threatening in case of liver failure (affecting 450 million people worldwide).

Revolutionizing dialysis to save lives from overdoses and liver failures

The team around Dr. Vincent Forster from the ETH spin-off Versantis is developing a groundbreaking dialysis approach to remove these toxins from your organism. Versantis uses small hollow spheres (i.e. liposomes) to efficiently and rapidly extract the toxic compounds from the blood. Thanks to its technical simplicity, this new dialysis approach presents a great opportunity to save patients' lives, even in developing countries, where expensive detoxification therapies are rarely available. Dr. Vincent Forster expressed his enthusiasm about the program: "VENTURE KICK has been extremely kind at opening its large network within the biotech and pharma ecosystem. This bridge towards Switzerland-based advisors and investors is the most valuable support Versantis could profit from at a startup phase. In addition, the business acceleration programs, the online visibility, and obviously, the financial supports were very helpful."

ETH spin-off makes electricity systems smart

One of the goals of Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050 is the expansion of the renewable energy sector. But the energy transition towards renewable energy creates entirely new challenges for grid operators who are in charge of ensuring a stable system operation. Adaptricity helps operators through innovative simulation tools to prepare for these new challenges in network planning and network operation. The first product, the simulation software "DPG.sim", provides a comprehensive simulation environment for active distribution grids. It allows distribution system operators to integrate SmartGrid features into their grid planning processes. This enables optimal decision-making in costly grid upgrade projects and the improved utilization of the existing grid infrastructure. "The power sector is changing rapidly due to the expansion of renewable energy, market liberalization and increasing fusion of energy and information technology. Thanks to VENTURE KICK we now have even more power to bring our software solutions to our customers to help them in the improvement and the expansion of their power grids," explains Stephan Koch, co-founder of Adaptricity.

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 Rüt Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Avina Stiftung, OPO-Stiftung, Fondation Lombard Odier, Debiopharm Group, André Hoffmann and Hansjörg Wyss.

www.venturekick.ch

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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
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- **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.pbbtech.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
- **QGel 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](#).