



Press release

Toulouse, FRANCE – 20th February 2019

‘TWB START-UP DAY’: a hotbed for biotech innovation

The biotechs have staged a revolution in industrial production: in turning to the living world (micro-organisms, enzymes), it is now possible to offer eco-compatible products, real alternatives to those derived from oil. More and more start-ups are innovating in the bio-economy sector, which is fast becoming one of the largest economic markets in Europe, ahead of that of digital technologies.

In order to showcase biotech entrepreneurs, on Tuesday 12 February, TWB held the second edition of the ‘START-UP DAY’ - a return to this unique event dedicated to start-up biotechs.

‘TWB START-UP DAY’: an international reference event for biotech start-ups.

Organised by TWB, the goal of this event was to promote synergy between those working towards an eco-responsible industry; start-ups, investment companies and large industrial companies, all of which are seeking innovative solutions in the field of industrial biotechnology.

This year TWB brought together nearly 180 professionals from 10 countries, among which forty were start-ups (Amyris, Ginkgo Bioworks, Fermentalg, Green Biologics, METEX, Syngulon, EnobraQ, ALTAR, m2p-labs, Naturamole, DNA Script, etc.), structures for biotechs innovation and promotion (IAR Cluster, French Tech Toulouse, ShakeUp Factory, etc.), industrialists (Michelin, Roquette, Processium, Proteus, Lallemand, Sanofi, McCain, etc.) and investors (Sofinnova Partners, Bpifrance, European Investment Bank, Solvay Ventures, IRDI SORIDEC, ELAIA, etc.).

In addition to solid support provided by the ‘Attractiveness Agency of Toulouse Métropole’, the event was also sponsored by the Haute-Garonne Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Toulouse Business School, Syngulon, Cabinet Plasseraud and ARD.

Following a presentation on financing, a lecture was delivered by Albert Meige (founder and president of Presans and academic director of HEC Paris) on innovation and its new drivers. Then, the start-ups had the opportunity to hear the feedback of Joel Cherry, R&D President of the American start-up Amyris, a pioneer in the field of synthetic biology.

Two networking sessions were also provided. They were great opportunities to network with industrialists and investors, who themselves had identified the event as a real opportunity to prospect for the nuggets of talent of tomorrow.

The conclusion drawn from the day is this: the three factors necessary for the success of a biotech start-up are as follows: to have a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the target market, to maintain an open mind and to build on the teams.



A start-up honoured: TempEasy

At each event, TWB organises a competition in which all European biotech start-ups of 5 years or more, offering differentiating and innovative solutions, may participate. Facing a jury of experts, in turn, 5 start-ups from 5 different countries made their pitch. And the English start-up, TempEasy, won! In offering their Vegan food products, which plug the gap of any possible protein and vitamin deficiencies, this start-up is fighting malnutrition. A true meat alternative, their innovation uses tempeh; a traditional product originating from Indonesia which is the result of a fermentation process; to produce food products with an exceptionally rich nutritional value.

As the overall winner of the competition, TempEasy will benefit from 4 months of services of the technological platforms of TWB, plus scientific and business support for their project. These services will allow TempEasy to optimise the fermentation process and also, as a result, some of the characteristics of their products that have already been marketed.

About TWB:

Expert in steering scientific projects, TWB contributes to the development of new sustainable production pathways by providing innovative and economically sound alternative biological solutions. In order to accelerate the transition towards an eco-responsible industry, TWB has drawn on collective intelligence to drive pioneering links between researchers, industrial groups and investors. By fostering worthwhile, practical and innovative research, TWB meets a two-fold challenge: to effectively address the issue of climate change whilst creating economic value.

Since the creation of TWB 6 years ago, under the triple supervision of INRA, INSA and CNRS, and, as of the 1st January 2019 strengthened by 51 partners; (industrial groups, startups, investors, research bodies, local and regional authorities, etc.); TWB has contributed to the launch of 105 collaborative research and development projects and to the growth of numerous startups which in total have raised more than 100M€.

More information: <https://www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/en/>

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OXYGEN Press Contact

OXYGEN - Aurélie Mauries / Aurélie Vérin – Phone: +33 532 11 07 31 - aurelie@oxygen-rp.com

TWB Contact

Véronique Paquet - Phone: +33 673 48 13 84 - paquet@insa-toulouse.fr