



Press release
Toulouse, 13 February 2020

TWB START-UP DAY
an international reference event
in the field of industrial biotechnologies

At the heart of the bioeconomy, biotechnology promotes ‘green growth’ through the production of innovative tools derived from biological resources. TWB, an expert in scientific project management, for the third consecutive year devoted a day to start-ups on the theme of sustainability. This unique event brought together 18 exceptional speakers and almost 200 international representatives from the field.

Distinguished speakers

On the 6 February 2020, TWB organised the third edition of ‘TWB® START-UP DAY’, this event is now firmly planted in the landscape of essential meetings of innovation and entrepreneurship. The objective is to promote the ecosystem of start-ups in the field of industrial biotechnologies and to unite all its international players.

Among many renowned speakers, Didier Miraton; currently President of the consulting firm La Combe, lecturer at the Collège des Ingénieurs and former Managing Director of both the Michelin Group and Pierre Fabre Laboratories; delivered the keynote speech for the TWB® START-UP DAY 2020. He shared his unique vision on the role of societal start-ups, which, far from being a fashionable phenomenon, constitute a new social structure that enables solutions to demographic and environmental issues to be rapidly built on the basis of fundamental research.

Randy Rettberg, President of the iGEM Foundation (MIT), announced that the iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) competition (Giant Jamboree) will be held in Paris, France, for the first time in 2021. Previously this event has always been held in Boston. The competition will integrate current societal and environmental issues.

Other notable speeches: Susan Schofer of the American start-up, Modern Meadow (production of biofabricated leather), Thomas Grotkjaer of Novo Holdings (promoter of sustainable investment) and Markus Pompejus of BASF (integration of biotechnology with chemical production to reduce CO₂ emissions).

Focus on innovation

The various conferences and round-table meetings of the day were followed by a competition of pitches by the start-ups. The aim of this competition is to select and support the start-up that presents the most innovative and ground-breaking solution, with a prize worth €50,000 in the form of services provided on the technological platforms of TWB. This year, 5 pre-selected start-ups from 3 European countries took it in turns to face a jury composed of experts from the investment and innovation sectors: Fungus Sapiens, Glowee, Hoekmine BV, Octarine and Zymoptiq. Thanks to an inspiring speech, the Danish start-up Octarine wowed the jury.

Octarine exploits synthetic biology to develop new products capable of improving the health and well-being of populations worldwide.

The proof of success

TWB® START-UP DAY brought together 200 professionals from 9 countries: France, Spain, USA, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Switzerland. Almost 50 start-uppers were present, (BioC3, Biotecal, PILI, Aruru Molecular Ltd, Kapsara, Green Spot Technologies, e-Zyvec, Micropep, DAB, Afyren,...). They were able to interact and establish links with structures for innovation and promotion of biotechs, meet with industrialists (Adisseo, BASF, Lallemand, Givaudan, Kering, Biotalys, L'Oréal, ...) as well as a whole range of investors (Novo Holdings, Capricorn Venture Partners, Elaia, Go Capital, Demeter,...).

The event, hallmarked by French Tech Toulouse, benefited from the promotion of partners from IAR- the Bioeconomy Cluster, the Agri Sud-Ouest Innovation Cluster and Hello Tomorrow, it was appreciably supported by Toulouse Métropole and Région Occitanie and sponsored by the Toulouse Business School and the companies ARD, Carbios, Plasseraud, ResiCare by Michelin, Sofinnova Partners and Syngulon.

« The three key messages for entrepreneurs that endure for me from this edition, concludes Olivier Rolland, Managing Director TWB are: swiftly challenge the real world with your ideas, find the balance that allows you to achieve environmental, societal and economic sustainability and develop local solutions to local issues to address the challenges faced by society. »

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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 (2012), under the triple supervision of INRAE, INSA and CNRS, and, as of the 1st January 2019 strengthened by 50 partners; (industrial groups, startups, investors, research bodies, local and regional authorities, etc.); TWB has contributed to the launch of 150 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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