

TWB Reveals the Two Winning Start-ups at Start me up!, the European Event for Biotech



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Toulouse (France), February 21, 2024 - TWB, a major player in industrial biotechnologies and a designer of innovative and sustainable solutions, unveils the two winning start-ups of the competitions at Start me up! (formerly TWB Start-Up Day), the European event for biotech. French start-up inLux Biotech won the "Go for it!" competition for its innovation in AgriTech, and Danish start-up Biomia won the "Fast track it!" competition for its project in the medical field.

The 6th edition of this annual event, held in Toulouse on January 31 and February 1, attracted numerous researchers, investors and industrialists, as well as over 50 entrepreneurs. Participants from 12 countries took advantage of the event's new format, in particular the Biotech Tour, which enabled them to visit the leading biotech centers in Toulouse. Another new feature was the start-up pitches during the round tables. Finally, InSpek, a start-up building the next generation of biological and chemical monitoring systems, emerged as the audience's favorite and won the honorary award.

Biomia, winner of the "Fast track it!" competition for its medical project

Biomia, a Danish synthetic biology company, has won the "Fast Track it!" award for growth-stage start-ups under 8 years of age, for its project to develop natural therapeutic products inspired by plants. These products are designed to meet unmet medical needs in pain, addiction and mental health. Biomia relies on proprietary bioprocesses (a process that uses whole living cells or their components)

based on modified microbes and fermentation to obtain molecules of interest. It offers a new, scalable model for the search of natural products for clinical use, usually obtained via costly chemical processes that are difficult to scale up. This start-up has been awarded the equivalent of €50,000 worth of services on TWB technology platforms.



It will also benefit from communication opportunities offered by Bioeconomy For Change & Agri Sud-Ouest Innovation.

"We are fortunate to win this award, which will already enable us in the short term to strengthen the links between Biomia and TWB, so that we can initiate collaborative projects aimed at further perfecting our platforms for manufacturing new fermentation pathways for the drugs of the future," comments **Michael Krogh Jensen, CEO of Biomia.**

inLux Biotech wins the "Go for it!" competition for its innovation in AgriTech

Aimed at entrepreneurs at the idea and creation stage, the "Go for It!" competition was won by the French start-up inLux Biotech, for its innovative agricultural project looking at finding alternatives to the use of pesticides. Its technology is based on the development of a tool for visualizing phytopathogens, living or quasi-living organisms (bacteria, viruses, etc.) liable to infect plants and trigger disease. It provides real-time data based on bioluminescence, which is the production and emission of light by a living organism via a chemical reaction. It accelerates the development of biocontrol by facilitating the effectiveness of treatments before they are applied in the field.



"Winning this award is particularly significant for us, as it confirms the validation of our technology by the scientific community. This recognition represents an opportunity to build solid relationships with various players in the AgriTech field, and has already enabled us to gain visibility within this ecosystem," comments **Mathilde Cecchi, co-founder and CEO of inLux Biotech.**

This start-up will benefit from three days of mentoring provided by TWB and its ecosystem of industrialists and investors, as well as network development opportunities via the competition's partners: Agri Sud-Ouest Innovation, ShakeUpFactory and Bioeconomy For Change.

InSpek wins over the Start me up! audience

InSpek won the honorary People's Choice Award for its project on the generation of biological and chemical monitoring systems using integrated photonics (technology enabling the generation, control and detection of photons, which are particles of light). InSpek is developing a non-invasive detection

system based on Raman spectroscopy, a technique that involves shining monochromatic light onto the sample and analyzing the scattered light. This system enables real-time detection of bioprocesses, providing better control and preventing process deviations. InSpek is a pioneer in the integration of Raman technology on optical chips.

"We are honored and very happy to receive the People's Choice Award! It is a recognition of the value we create and encourages us to continue in this direction. Taking part in the event enabled us to get in touch with some interesting and important players in the sector. We've had some excellent discussions and follow-up calls, and we're already working on possible collaborations," comments **Ivan-Lazar Bundalo, CTO of InSpek.**

Round tables on chemicals, AgriTech and Deep Tech

Three sessions provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing biotech and its impact on fields other than healthcare. One of these sessions, dedicated to chemistry, polymers and materials, highlighted Carbios' breakthrough innovation in making PET, the world's second most consumed plastic, biodegradable. Another example was Electric Skin's innovation in a new material that generates electricity from ambient humidity. Another thematic session focused on Deep Tech and productivity-enhancing technologies, and addressed the role of artificial intelligence in biotech.

"This 6th edition was an opportunity to highlight, beyond healthcare, other fields in which biotechnologies now offer concrete solutions. The start-ups at this year's event are shaking things up. Thanks to their ideas and breakthrough innovations, these pioneers are meeting the challenges of the low-carbon transition of key industries and sectors of our economy, to preserve the planet, feed its inhabitants and ensure their well-being. The mission of TWB, its teams and its public-private ecosystem, unique in Europe, is to support them in accelerating, derisking and innovating alongside them. Their success is our future", concludes **Fabrice Garrigue, Executive Director of TWB.**

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About TWB

As an expert in research and development (R&D) projects, TWB supports industry in developing innovative, sustainable solutions for the benefit of the planet and its inhabitants. In the field of industrial biotechnologies, TWB sets up and runs R&D projects in collaboration with public laboratories and industrialists, supports the development of start-ups by offering them accommodation in a cutting-edge scientific and technological environment, and encourages the emergence of breakthrough innovations. By bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs, financiers, institutions and industry, TWB integrates all biotechnology skills and creates synergies between players in the value chain, while simplifying the contractual relationship. This unique model accelerates the innovation process required for the development of an eco-responsible industry.*

Since its launch in 2012, and with a consortium of 49 private and public members as of January 1, 2023 (manufacturers, start-ups, investors, research organizations, local authorities, etc.), TWB has contributed to 285 collaborative R&D projects and to the growth of numerous start-ups, which have raised a total of over €250 million.

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