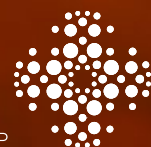


JAHRESBERICHT 2025

5. GESCHÄFTSJAHR

KICK
FOUNDATION
SWISS FOUNDATION FOR
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



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EINLEITUNG

Die Kick Foundation wurde am 22. April 2021 von der Ernst Göhner Stiftung und der Gebert Rüt Stiftung errichtet. Die Stiftenden widmen der Stiftung ein Gründungskapital von CHF 100'000. Das Stiftungsvermögen wird durch Zuwendungen der Stiftenden, von Dritten und durch Spenden von Investor:innen des Kickfund geöffnet.

ZWECK

Die Kick Foundation bezweckt, gemäss Art. 2 der Statuten vom 22. April 2021, die Stärkung des Wirtschaftsstandortes Schweiz durch die Förderung von Innovation und Unternehmertum, sowie die Förderung junger engagierter Talente an den schweizerischen Schulen und Hochschulen. Die Organisation und Funktionsweise der Stiftung ist im Stiftungsreglement vom 15. September 2021 geregelt.

Die Stiftung hat einen ausschliesslich und unmittelbar gemeinnützigen Zweck. Sie verfolgt keine Erwerbszwecke und erstrebt keinen Gewinn.

GREMIEN

STIFTUNGSRAT

Suzanne Avedik (Präsidentin)
Roland Siegwart (Vize-Präsident)
Philip Bodmer
Sandra Tobler
Roger Wüthrich-Hasenböhler

GESCHÄFTSSTELLE

Pascale Vonmont, Gebert Rüt Stiftung (im Mandat)

AKTIVITÄTSÜBERSICHT STIFTUNGSRAT

Der Stiftungsrat hat in seiner Frühlingssitzung am 7. April 2025 den Jahresabschluss sowie den Jahresbericht verabschiedet. Letzterer enthält umfassende Informationen zu den Programminitiativen und deren Entwicklungen. Im Sinne eines Informationsaustausches wurde die «Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation» zu einer Präsentation und Diskussion in den Stiftungsrat eingeladen.

In der Herbstsitzung vom 19. November 2025 erfolgte im Rahmen der strategischen Planung die Zuwahl von Samuel Bon per 1.1.2026 in den Stiftungsrat. Darüber hinaus verabschiedete das Gremium die Finanzplanung für das kommende Jahr. Es wurden die verschiedenen Förderprogramme und ihre Aktivitäten seitens der Ausschüsse in Form von Berichten und Kurzpräsentationen vorgestellt und anschliessend diskutiert. Zudem wurden die langfristige Finanzierungsstrategie sowie die zukünftige Programmentwicklung thematisiert.

STRATEGIEAUSSCHÜSSE FÖRDERPROGRAMME

Der Stiftungsrat kann gemäss dem Organisationsreglement (Punkt 12) Strategieausschüsse bezeichnen. Der/die Geschäftsführer:in ist von Amtes wegen deren Mitglied. Die Strategieausschüsse sind für die inhaltliche und finanzielle Begleitung von Förderprogrammen zuständig.

TALENT KICK

Michael Hengartner
Alex Ilic
Patricia Koop
Roland Siegwart
Sandra Tobler
Pascale Vonmont

Der Strategieausschuss Talent Kick hat sich im Jahr 2025 an folgenden Terminen zu Sitzungen getroffen: 31. Januar, 28. April, 18. Juli, 5. September.

VENTURE KICK

Pascale Vonmont (Delegierte des Strategierats)
 Suzanne Avedik
 Philip Bodmer
 Jan Lichtenberg

Der Strategieausschuss Venture Kick hat sich im Jahr 2025 an folgenden Terminen getroffen:
 23. Januar, 21. Mai, 13. November, 16. Dezember.

FÖRDERTÄTIGKEIT

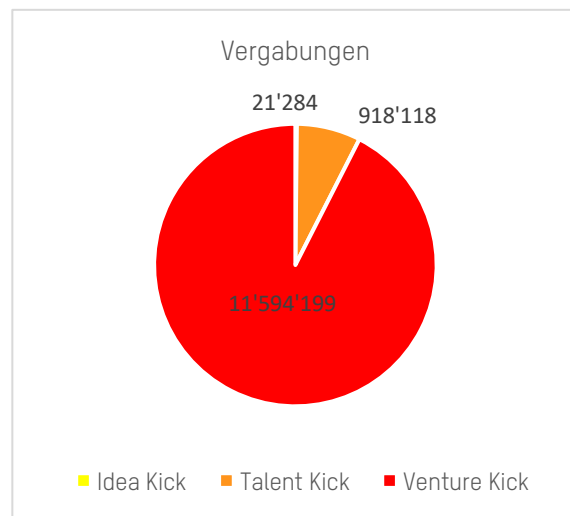
Die Förderprogramme der «Kick Foundation» bieten jungen und engagierten Talenten in der Schweiz ein breit angelegtes Ausbildungs- und Förderprogramm für Innovation, Technologie und Unternehmertum, von der ersten Idee in der Schule über das Studium bis zur Gründung eines Unternehmens. Die einzelnen Initiativen sind zwar unabhängig, aber gut aufeinander abgestimmt und bieten vielfältige Austauschmöglichkeiten.



Die Fördermittel wurden durch die Stifter und durch Zuwendungen von zahlreichen Donatoren mit regelmässigen jährlichen Beiträgen an die jeweiligen Initiativen eingebracht.

Im Jahr 2025 verteilen sich die Zuwendungen sowie Rückflüsse aus Vergabungen und erfolgreichen Projekten in der Höhe von CHF 10'933'807 wie folgt auf die einzelnen Initiativen: CHF 135'075 Idea Kick, CHF 765'000 Talent Kick, CHF 10'033'732 Venture Kick.

Für die Stiftungsaktivitäten wurden insgesamt CHF 12'533'601 eingesetzt. Für die einzelnen Programminitiativen sind das CHF 21'284 für Idea Kick, CHF 918'118 für Talent Kick und CHF 11'594'199 für Venture Kick.



KURZBERICHT PROGRAMME KICK FOUNDATION

IDEA KICK

Idea Kick schlägt eine Brücke zwischen Programmen wie Schweizer Jugend forscht, Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES), myidea, EntrepreneurSkills, libs Unternehmerhaus, Youngpreneurs und weiterführenden Angeboten. Das modulare Programm begleitet junge Menschen, die ihre Ideen in unternehmerische Projekte umsetzen möchten, mit gezielter Unterstützung in Finanzierung, Teambildung, Coaching sowie dem Zugang zu einer lebendigen Entrepreneurship-Community.

Mit dem Zusatzprogramm Startup Spirit @School ermöglichen wir Schulen, die Welt der Startups direkt in den Unterricht zu bringen. Schüler:innen und Lernende erhalten durch unsere Startups praxisnahe Einblicke in unternehmerisches Denken und Handeln. Das Programm wird gegenwärtig an den Berufsschulen im Zusammenhang mit myidea als Pilot umgesetzt.

Teilnehmende von Idea Kick werden zudem in weiterführende Initiativen wie Talent Kick, First Ventures und Venture Kick eingeführt, wodurch sie ihre Ideen während ihres Studiums kontinuierlich weiterentwickeln können.

Es konnten im 2025 drei neue Idea Kicker unterstützt werden. Von den 7 laufenden und bisherigen Projekten haben 2 die Folgeprogramme Talent Kick und Venture Kick gestartet bzw. durchlaufen.

Im Rahmen des Programms Startup Spirit @School konnten an den beiden Pilot-Berufsschulen BBZ Olten und BBZ Solothurn-Grenchen die 13 Gründer:innen-Besuche bei 16 Klassen insgesamt 275 Lernende für Unternehmertum begeistern.

kickfoundation.ch/startupspiritatschool

TALENT KICK

Talent Kick bringt Studierende aus verschiedenen Hochschulen zusammen, damit sie in Teams eigene Ideen entwickeln und unternehmerisch wachsen können.

Im ersten Semester lernen sie in Workshops und Coaching, wie sie ihre Ideen umsetzen. Erfolgreiche Teams erhalten Geld, um ihre Projekte zu starten und werden dabei von Expert:innen begleitet.

Am Ende haben die Teilnehmenden praktische Erfahrungen und wichtige unternehmerische Fähigkeiten. Die besten Teams legen ausserdem den Grundstein für ihr eigenes Unternehmen.

Im Jahr 2025 wurden aus 133 Bewerbungen 39 Talente ins Programm aufgenommen. Die Bewerbungen stammen von 13 verschiedenen Schweizer Hochschulen (Universitäten, ETH, Fachhochschulen). Es sind 19 Teams entstanden, davon haben 12 den zweiten Meilenstein erreicht. Insgesamt konnten schon 10 Teams erfolgreich in das Förderprogramm Venture Kick aufgenommen werden, bzw. 4 dieses bis zur Stufe 3 abschliessen. Details zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Bericht bzw. auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

talentkick.ch

VENTURE KICK

Venture Kick schliesst eine wichtige Lücke in der Innovationskette: die Umsetzung von Forschungsarbeiten in vielversprechende Geschäftsideen. Das Förderprogramm finanziert nicht nur die ersten Schritte von Universitätsforschenden mit Ideen, sondern entwickelt auch deren unternehmerischen Fähigkeiten. Ein dreistufiger Prozess führt schliesslich zu einem Spin-off mit einem soliden Geschäftsplan für die wirtschaftliche Umsetzung der Innovation.

Im Jahr 2025 wurden aus 880 Eingaben 310 Ideen der Jury präsentiert. Davon wurden 97 in Stufe 1, 58 in Stufe 2 und schliesslich 34 in Stufe 3 gefördert. Detaillierte Angaben zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Jahresbericht oder auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

venturekick.ch

EXTERNE STELLEN

BUCHHALTUNG

Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel

bourcart.ch

REVISIONSSTELLE

Copartner Revision AG, Basel

copartner.ch

STIFTUNGSAUFSICHT

Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht, Bern

esa.admin.ch/de

KICK FOUNDATION

Basel, 22. April 2025

Geschäftsstelle: St. Alban-Vorstadt 12, 4052 Basel

ANHANG

- **Jahresberichte Programminitiativen**

**KICK
FOUNDATION**

SWISS FOUNDATION FOR
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Kick Foundation
c/o Haus der Stiftungen
St. Alban-Vorstadt 12, 4052 Basel
info@kickfoundation.ch

www.kickfoundation.ch

Talent Kick Annual Report

2025

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Foreword

2025 was a year of sharpening our focus, strengthening our foundations, and building momentum for long-term impact and scale.

In 2025 we ran one streamlined, Swiss-wide Batch in spring, incorporating key learnings from previous years to deliver an even more focused, operationally smooth and friction-less experience. Based on participant feedback, we redesigned the structure of our bootcamps to deliberately optimise in-person time for what benefits most from physical presence—deep collaboration, peer exchange, hands-on work, and curated access to experienced entrepreneurs, enabling meaningful connections—while shifting input-heavy content such as keynotes and foundational knowledge to a digital learning environment and structured sprint phases in between. To increase our reach and engagement across universities and research institutions, we launched a new Scout Network including successful TK participants and alumni in the scouting of the best new talents. To support earlier engagement and improve application quality, we introduced a new format — the Immersion Day — offering a low-barrier, high-energy entry point into the program.

Behind the scenes, we ensured continuity and stability in our internal operations. In 2025, we welcomed Gabriela as a full-time Executive Assistant, responsible for running our back office, managing finances, and supporting legal compliance. With an LL.M. in Compliance and International Business Law from the University of Fribourg, and previous experience at Education First as well as in legal and administrative roles, she brings strong operational expertise to the team.

We also made significant progress in securing the long-term future of the program. The Ernst Göhner Stiftung, one of our strong supporters since 2022, extended their commitment through 2027.

The Hirschmann Stiftung joined as a strong partner financing the Team Kick Award for the years 2026 to 2028. We welcomed our first corporate partner offering new potential for industry collaboration. In parallel, the Gebert Rütli Stiftung has signaled its intent to continue supporting the program annually, should the program's impact continue on its current trajectory.

Alongside these developments, we opened a second application round for access to the Team Kick and Semester 2, continued small-scale testing for a fully digital program to optimise digital delivery and operational efficiency, and strengthened internal systems and full documentation of all TK knowledge in a Talent Kick handbook.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a decisive year. Together with our partners and foundations, we will define the long-term structure for the next three to five years — with a clear focus on maximizing impact, reducing friction, and enabling more early-stage founders in Switzerland to take bold steps forward.

Talent Kick is maturing — from a successful pilot into a focused, national initiative with growing reach, outstanding delivery, and the foundations in place for long-term success.

Viviana Gropengiesser, CEO Talent Kick



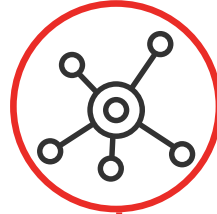
At The Core

OUR VISION



We believe that Swiss universities provide a unique breeding ground to turn the most talented and driven students into global 21st century entrepreneurial leaders - bringing science-based innovation and positive impact to our society.

OUR MISSION



We bring the most outstanding talents together by leveraging Swiss universities to form interdisciplinary diverse teams and combine hands-on entrepreneurial experience with their studies.





OUR USP

- Support in building strong cross-university teams incl. co-founder matching
- Highly selective; opening up career path as entrepreneurs for best outstanding talents
- Support to leverage synergies to the degree program
- Coaching for self-development and mentoring by experienced entrepreneurs & executive leadership coaches
- Hands-on learning and validation through financial support of 5'000 CHF per project



TARGET GROUP

- Entrepreneurial minds with a hands-on attitude
- Students pursuing a Master or PhD degree
- Excellent academic track record
- Team players with drive & leadership ability
- Strong desire for making impact
- At least 1 year left of their studies



Overall

CHF 50.5 MILLION

FOLLOW-ON FUNDING RAISED BY TEAMS,
WITH PARTICIPATION BY TOP TIER FUNDS

72 TEAMS HAVE WON CHF 390K AWARDED IN THE TEAM KICK AWARD TOTAL 



**70% OF TEAM KICK WINNERS
ATTRACTED ADDITIONAL FUNDING
OR SUPPORT WITHIN 18 MONTHS**

1000+ APPLICATIONS

SINCE PILOT IN 2021



Impact

53 NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED
ACROSS OUR BATCHES 

120 TEAMS FORMED SINCE
THE START OF TK (2021)

**90% OF ALL GRADUATING
TEAMS STILL ACTIVE** 

+100 JOBS
CREATED **85+** EXTERNAL EVENTS CO-
ORGANISED OR STRONGLY
REPRESENTED BY
TALENT KICK

NPS +86 AVERAGE AT
GRADUATION 

80+ HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

80+ highly supportive and active partnerships across the Swiss and international ecosystem — including ecosystem partners, universities and universities of applied sciences, pre- and post-Talent Kick programs, student organisations, innovation hubs and entrepreneurial/research infrastructure, service providers and industry partners, federal and cantonal innovation institutions, and international organizations.

2025 Highlights

The latest batch demonstrated strong progress in our commitment to fostering diverse and complementary co-founder teams, with half of the TK-S25 teams forming with at least one female founder.

49 TALENTS SUPPORTED
25 TEAMS FORMED

AMBA
ESTAB

35+ AI

71% OF TEAMS WITH CO-FOUNDERS FROM DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES



50% MIXED GENDER CO-F

20 MENTORS ENGAGED

100% PASS RATE FOR MILESTONE 1
70% PASS RATE FOR MILESTONE 2



1 MASTERCLASS LAUNCHED ON THE FOUNDERS AGREEMENT



We're very excited to share that this year, Talent Kick, in collaboration with Swisspreneur, co-launched a free masterclass on the Founders Agreement. In this masterclass, we dive into the details of the founders agreement and unpack the key discussions early-stage founders should have with potential co-founders to ensure alignment before embarking on a startup journey together. The Founders Agreement has already supported hundreds of young founders at Talent Kick and beyond—and now the most exciting part: it's available to everyone, for free. More about this initiative can be found on page 47.

39,258+ YOUTUBE VIEWS



5 ★ 690,000

10+ NEW PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

39 APPLICATIONS FOR TEAM KICK CALL

+52%

50+ EXTERNAL EVENTS **FEMALE APPLICANT**

CO-ORGANISED OR STRONGLY REPRESENTED BY TK **COMPARE**

This year, we piloted a Team Kick Application Call, an open call designed to better identify and connect with teams already taking their first hands-on steps in entrepreneurship within university settings - through courses, programs, or competitions. The goal was to better understand where these teams are emerging, assess whether they could benefit from the application process to the Team Kick Award, receiving the Team Kick Award and joining the second semester of Talent Kick. More on this application call can be found on pages 21-22.

This year, we launched an exciting pilot to support us in finding the next generation of talent: the Talent Kick Scout Network. Across Switzerland, founders from the Talent Kick community locally acted as “scouts”, on-the-ground ambassadors and direct points of contact for curious students and researchers. As successful participants of the Talent Kick programs themselves, the scouts bring real, first-hand experience of the student entrepreneurial journey—helping to inspire and guide participants as they take their next step into entrepreneurship. More about this pilot can be found on page 46.

ASSADOR NETWORK OF 7 SCOUTS
BLISHED 

APPLICATIONS FROM SCOUT EFFORTS

 6 GRADUATING TEAMS

FOUNDER TEAMS 

 125+ PRESS FEATURES
ON TALENT KICK & TEAMS

 **3,022**  **145,233**
SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTIONS SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

 **922** NEW LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS
(97.7% OF WHICH ORGANIC)

41.8% INCREASE FROM 2024

0 CHF AWARDED BY VENTURE
KICK TO TK TEAMS IN 2025

16 ACTIVE PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

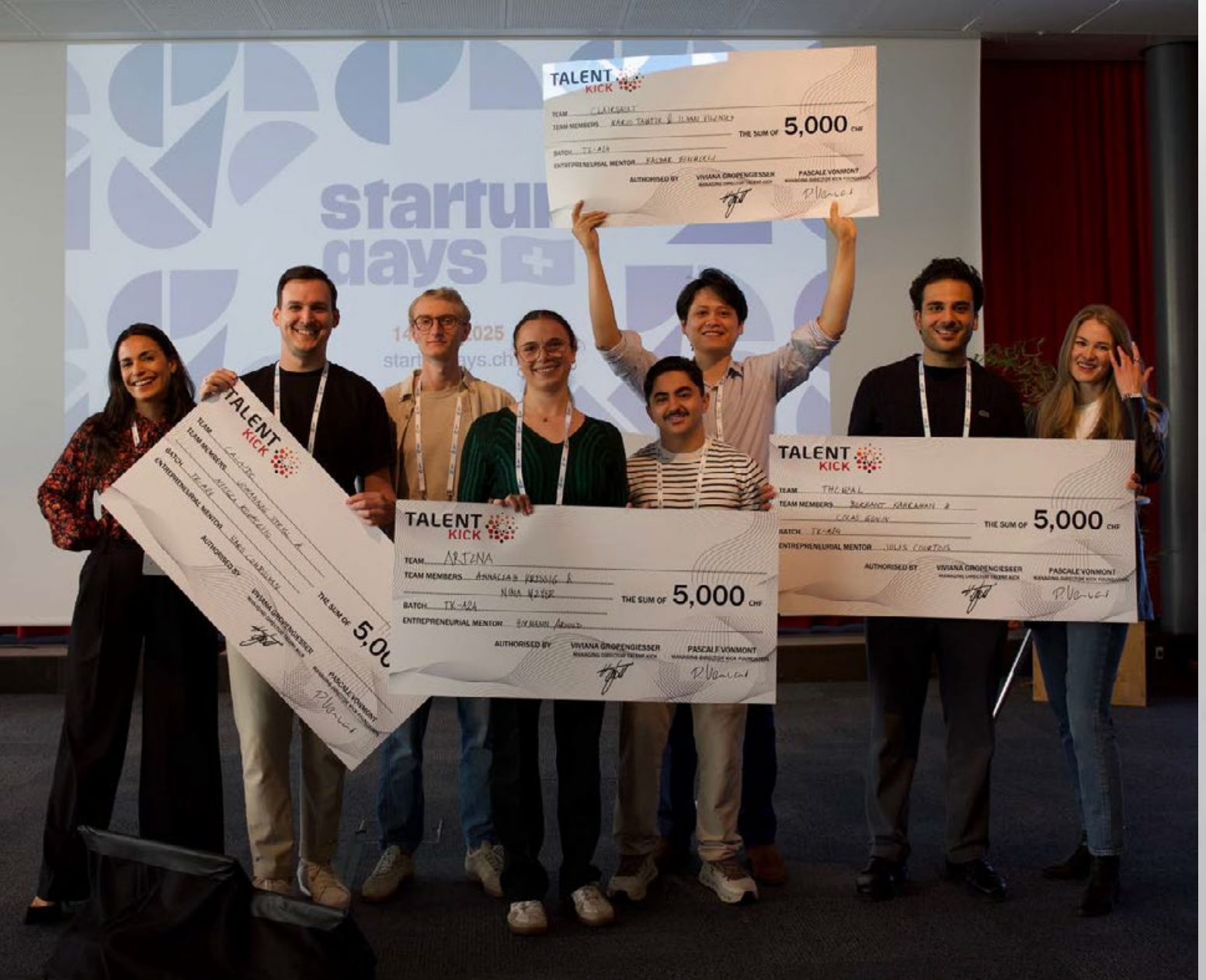
+ APPLICATIONS

GROWTH FROM LAST YEAR

TEAMS INCREASED BY **42.2% IN TK-S26,**
AND BY **94% SINCE TK-S23.**

In 2025, Talent Kick’s social media posts were viewed 145,233 times in total. Of these views, 138,091 came from organic reach (95.1%), meaning people found our content naturally through their feeds, shares, and recommendations. The remaining 7,142 views (4.9%) came from paid advertising during the application period. Additionally, 73,863 unique individuals saw our content at least once. This unique number is lower than the total views because it counts each person only once, even if they saw multiple posts. To illustrate: if 145,233 people walked past a billboard, only 73,863 were different people (some walked past multiple times). The high organic percentage (95.1%) shows that Talent Kick’s reach is driven primarily by content quality and strong network connections rather than paid promotion. These 73,863 unique individuals represent diverse stakeholders, including prospective students, entrepreneurs, university partners, and corporate ecosystem members.

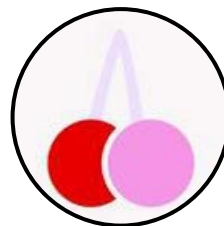
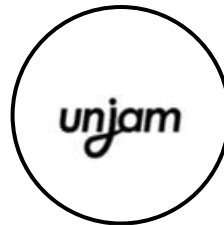
2025 marked a clear step forward for Talent Kick in both scale and diversity. Female participation increased as a result of Talent Kick’s deliberate efforts to strengthen the visibility of women across its ecosystem—through speakers, events, and partnerships—while maintaining a highly selective, team-first early-stage program model designed to reduce unnecessary self-selection out of the application process. *Further insights into the TK-S26 application calls will be presented in the 2026 Annual Report.*



Team Kick TK-A24 at Startup Days

In May, we awarded the **Team Kick** award of 5,000 CHF to **10 outstanding TK-A24 teams** - hosted at the industry-leading **Startup Days** where each winning team pitched on stage during the Newcomers session! Discover more about our TK-A24 winners in the following pages.

10 TEAM KICK WINNERS



Meet the

CAREBOTICS elevates elderly care for all of us by building an AI autoscheduler that frees up caregivers' time so they can spend more of it with the people who matter.



"THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM HAS BEEN THE MENTORSHIP AND COACHING. IT GAVE US THE CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ON A COMPLEX CHALLENGE AND GROW INTO OUR ROLES AS FOUNDERS. TK CONNECTED US WITH SUCCESSFUL STARTUP FOUNDERS, ANGEL INVESTORS, AND HELPED US SECURE A BIWEEKLY MENTORSHIP WITH AN EXPERIENCED FOUNDER IN OUR DOMAIN. THE CHF 5,000 GRANT ALSO GAVE US THE RUNWAY TO START BUILDING AND TESTING EARLY."



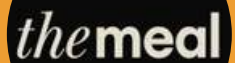
MATCHR connects SMEs and young graduates to find the perfect job match.



"TALENT KICK PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN HELPING US LAUNCH AND SHAPE OUR PROJECT. ALTHOUGH OUR TEAM WAS FORMED EXTERNALLY, THE PROGRAM PROVIDED US WITH STRUCTURE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND A CLEAR PROCESS TO FOLLOW, WHICH HELPED US MOVE MUCH FASTER THAN WE WOULD HAVE ON OUR OWN. THE REGULAR FEEDBACK FROM MENTORS AND PEERS ALLOWED US TO REFINE OUR APPROACH, CLARIFY OUR VALUE PROPOSITION, AND IDENTIFY NEXT STEPS WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE. BEYOND THE STRATEGIC SUPPORT, THE FINANCIAL BOOST WAS ALSO INSTRUMENTAL."



THE MEAL cooks healthy food with care and makes it accessible on a daily basis.



"OUR TEAM WAS ALREADY FORMED WHEN WE JOINED TALENT KICK. THE PROGRAM HELPED US BETTER ARTICULATE OUR CO-FOUNDER."



Winners



CLAIRVAULT enables secure businesses search, analyze, and predict on encrypted data in real time, without decryption.



"THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM HELPED US REALIZE THAT, AS A PRE-FORMED TEAM, WE WEREN'T FULLY ALIGNED FROM THE START. IT GAVE US THE SPACE TO COURSE-CORRECT EARLY ON AND SUPPORTED US IN UNDERSTANDING EACH PERSON'S EXPECTATIONS AND LEVEL OF COMMITMENT. CLEAR DEADLINES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR EACH MILESTONE HELPED US PACE OURSELVES AND PROVIDED DIRECTION FOR GROWING OUR STARTUP. THIS PROVED INCREDIBLY USEFUL FOR REFINING OUR BUSINESS STRATEGY, COMMUNICATION, AND OPERATIONAL EFFORTS."



LUMOVA is generating custom synthetic movement data to fuel your AI models.



"TALENT KICK GAVE JUST THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR PEOPLE TO EXPLORE THEIR IDEAS AND FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST LIKE-MINDED. TALENT KICK THEN ALSO HAS PROVIDED EVERYONE WITH THE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO PURSUE THEIR ENDEAVORS AND SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS THAT MIMICKED THE REAL WORLD CONDITIONS. TK ALSO PROVIDED AN EXTENSIVE COACHING/CONSULTING SUPPORT ON INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM LEVEL. THIS HAS MADE WORKING WITH "COMPLETE STRANGERS" MORE NATURAL."



SAFESPACE RESEARCH is building a blueprint for mental wellbeing support.



"THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM HELPED US CONNECT WITH DRIVEN, LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND PROVIDED A STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT TO TEST OUR TEAM DYNAMICS EARLY. THROUGH ITS COACHING, PEER FEEDBACK, AND MILESTONE CHALLENGES, WE GAINED CLARITY ON OUR ROLES, STRENGTHENED OUR COLLABORATION, AND BUILT THE FOUNDATION OF A RESILIENT AND MISSION-ALIGNED TEAM."

Meet the

UNJAM predicts traffic policy effects through simulation.

unjam

"THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN VERY ENGAGING AND USEFUL[...] I HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO APPLY IF YOU ARE A STUDENT INTERESTED IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP."



SENSORA is providing biosensors for non-invasive and early disease detection in the space of volatomic profiles.

SENSORA
SENSING THE UNSEEN

"AT THIS POINT - BIG THANKS TO THE TALENT KICK TEAM! BALANCING THE WORKSHOPS AND GUIDANCE WITH SOME FUN TIME (AND A LOT OF SNACKS AND DRINKS)), THE TEAM FORMING PROCESS FELT VERY NATURAL AND HAPPENING AT EACH OWN PACE. BEING OPEN-MINDED AND GRASPING THE CHANCES THAT LIFE GAVE US, WE BELIEVE TO HAVE A VERY STRONG CORE NOW AND THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOALS."



Winners

Calaido

CALAIIDO creates high-quality virtual exhibitions — take a tour, explore, and discover art that truly speaks to you.



"THE PROGRAM HELPED US FIND THE RIGHT CO-FOUNDERS AND SUPPORTED US DURING THE CRITICAL EARLY-STAGE TEAM FORMATION. THE TK FOUNDERS' AGREEMENT AND THE GUIDANCE TO SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS WERE SUPER HELPFUL TO ALIGN FROM THE START. THE TK PROGRAM GAVE US A SIMPLE, ACTIONABLE STRUCTURE FOR BUILDING A STARTUP: CLEAR MILESTONES, REALISTIC DEADLINES, AND JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PUSH."



ARTENA makes craftsmanship, and the people behind it, visible.



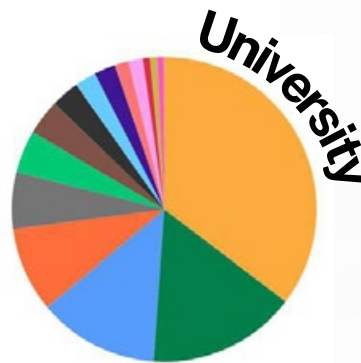
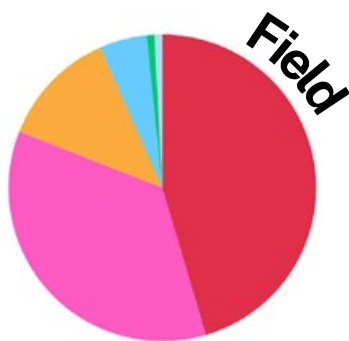
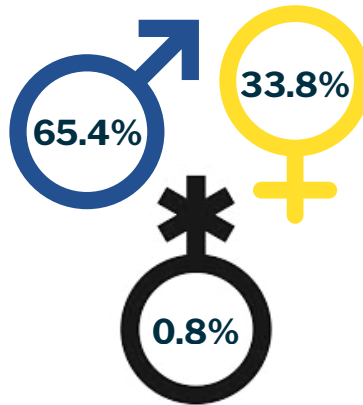
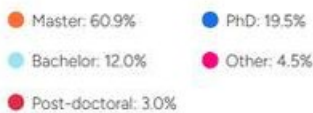
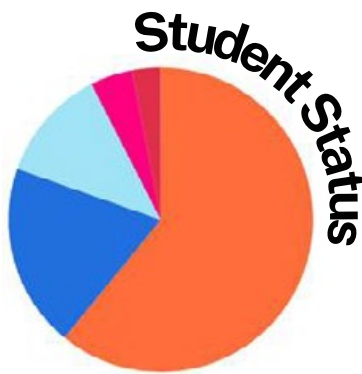
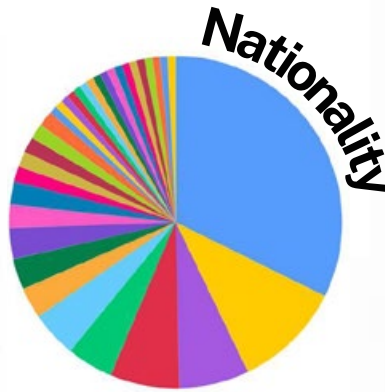
"WE JOINED TALENT KICK ALREADY AS A TEAM, BUT THE PROGRAM PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN VALIDATING AND STRENGTHENING OUR CO-FOUNDER CONSTELLATION. THROUGH STRUCTURED REFLECTION, COACHING, MENTORSHIP, AND EXPOSURE TO OTHER AMBITIOUS TEAMS, WE BECAME MORE CONFIDENT IN HOW WE WORK TOGETHER AND HOW OUR DYNAMIC SUPPORTS THE STARTUP. TALENT KICK HELPED US SHARPEN OUR ROLES AND ALIGN OUR VISION, GIVING US A SOLID FOUNDATION TO MOVE FASTER AND MORE DECISIVELY AS WE BUILD OUR VENTURE."



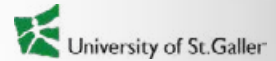
133 APPLICATIONS FOR TK-S25

TK-S25 Distribu

APPLICATION



IN 2025 WE RECEIVED



Selection & Diversity

39 TALENTS SELECTED FOR TK-S25
+10 MORE FOR THE 2025 TEAM KICK TRACK

SELECTION

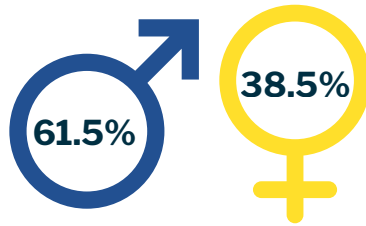


Nationality

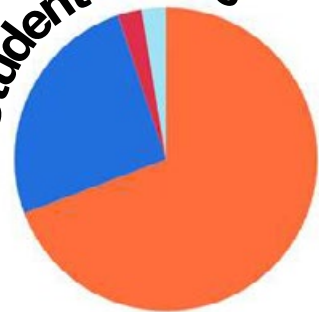


Switzerland: 33.3%	Italy: 12.8%
France: 10.3%	China: 10.3%
Slovakia: 7.7%	Germany: 5.1%
Peru: 2.6%	Lithuania: 2.6%
Bulgaria: 2.6%	Nigeria: 2.6%
Thailand: 2.6%	Hungary: 2.6%
Morocco: 2.6%	United States: 2.6%

APPLICATIONS FROM:

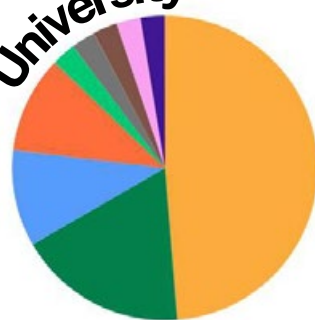


Student Status



Master: 69.2%	PhD: 25.6%
Post-doctoral: 2.6%	Bachelor: 2.6%

University



ETHZ: 48.7%	HSG: 17.9%
EPFL: 10.3%	Uni Zürich: 10.3%
USI: 2.6%	Uni Geneva: 2.6%
Uni Neuchâtel: 2.6%	Uni Bern: 2.6%
BFH: 2.6%	

Field



Tech & Robotics: 38.2%
Business & Finance: 35.3%
Health & Biotech: 17.6%
Formal & Natural Sciences: 5.9%
Sustainability: 2.9%

39
TALENTS
SELECTED

This year, we welcomed **39** driven students from diverse interdisciplinary backgrounds and Swiss universities. We are proud to once again celebrate an outstanding batch of talented entrepreneurs!

Meet our TK-



-S25 Talents

- ETH
- HSG
- BFH
- UZH
- Uni Neuchâtel
- EPFL
- UNIBE
- Uni Geneva
- USI



50%

OF TEAMS FORMED IN 2025
ARE MIXED GENDER CO-
FOUNDER TEAMS!

TK-S25 Tea

NEWLY-FORMED

MTM

LuxPricer



heiz

HÔRAI

ALBA

HealthE

PRE-FORMED + NEW

LUMO



alphAnemo



ams Formed

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Eats	
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PRE-FORMED

key	Ntroπ
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		Lavender Technologies	Neurogauge
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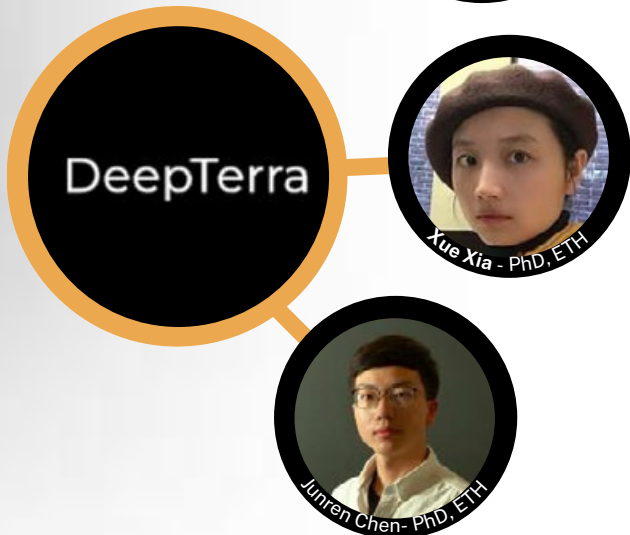
TK-S25 Tea

NEWLY-FORMED



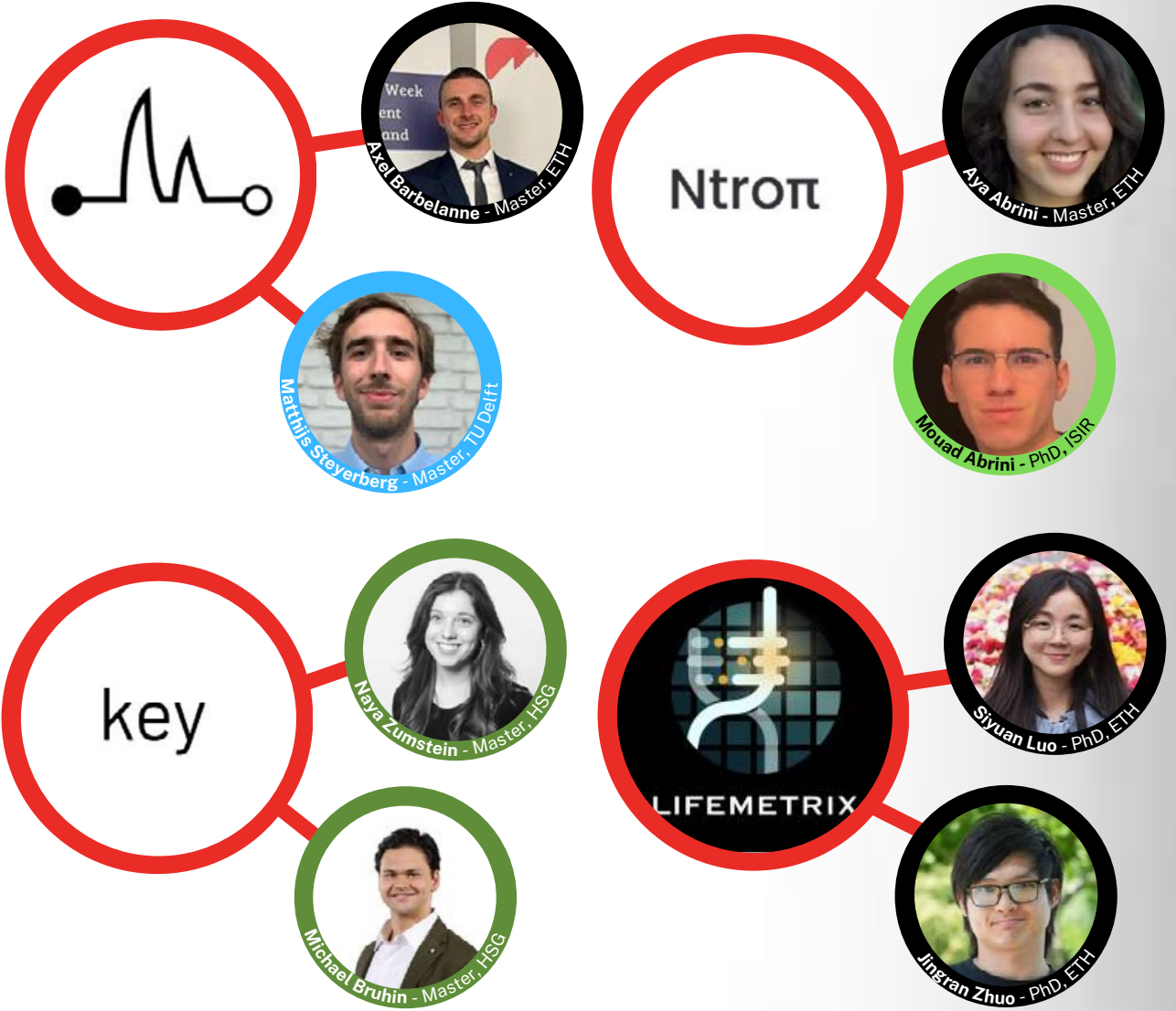
Teams Formed

- ETH
- HSG
- BFH
- UZH
- Uni Neuchâtel
- EPFL
- UNIBE
- Uni Geneva
- USI



TK-S25 Tea

PRE-FORMED



Startups Formed

- ETH
- HSG
- BFH
- UZH
- Uni Neuchâtel
- EPFL
- UNIBE
- Uni Geneva
- USI
- ISIR



NEON



Lukas Ballo - Phd, ETH



Raphael Eder - Master, ETH/ISE



alphAnemo



Jean-Sébastien Brouillon - Phd, EPFL



Johannes Waibel - Phd, EPFL



Lavender Technologies



Gilles Vogt - Master, ETH




Liam Roth - Master, ETH/Harvard



Neurogauge



Sonya Grégoir - Bachelor, HSG



Andreas Rowald - Phd, EPFL

PRE-FORMED + NEW



LUMO



Andrés Domschitz - Master, HSG



Mick Serphin - Master, UZH

Meet our Five Extra *Team Kick Track Winners*

This year, we piloted a Team Kick Application Call — an additional, open application pathway designed to engage teams that had already formed outside of Talent Kick and were taking their first hands-on steps in entrepreneurship within university environments, such as courses, programs, or competitions.

Traditionally, teams enter Talent Kick through the first semester of the program, where individuals and early teams learn how to build strong founding teams, clarify roles and expectations, refine their pitch, and convince experienced entrepreneurs to support them as mentors. Teams that successfully complete these core steps are then awarded the Team Kick and progress into the second semester of the program. With this pilot, we introduced a complementary pathway: an opportunity for teams that had already formed in other academic or entrepreneurial contexts to apply directly for the Team Kick and entry into the second semester — provided they could demonstrate the same essential readiness and quality standards that teams typically develop during the first semester of Talent Kick.

This initiative extends Talent Kick’s formative support in a more condensed, targeted format. Applicants were guided through a streamlined version of the most critical elements of the first semester. This included structured team-building work through the Talent Kick Founder Agreement (supported by a short masterclass), focused pitch refinement, and the requirement to engage experienced entrepreneurs as potential mentors. While significantly more time-compressed, this process mirrored the core learning objectives of the first phase and was supported through selected resources, feedback, and introductions from the Talent Kick team.

Beyond outreach, the call served as a strategic tool to better understand and strengthen our broader entrepreneurial pipeline. It enabled us to identify where promising teams are forming across institutions and initiatives, while simultaneously allowing us to support a larger number of teams in reaching the quality threshold required for the Team Kick — regardless of where their initial formation took place.

The pilot generated a diverse and high-quality set of applications and provided valuable insights into the courses, programs, and competitions that already foster strong entrepreneurial teams. Building on these learnings, our next objective is to explore how Talent Kick can build stronger, more intentional bridges with these initiatives — creating clearer pathways that allow teams to move seamlessly into Talent Kick, receive the right level of support at the right moment, and continue their entrepreneurial journey within the second semester of the program and beyond.

39 INDIVIDUALS APPLIED FROM **11**
18 TEAMS APPLIED DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES

24 TEAMS

With the original TK-S25 intake and the Team Kick track, we supported **49 talents** in **24 teams** on their entrepreneurial journey in 2025.

- ETH ● HSG ● OTHER
- EPFL ● TUM (TECHNICAL UNI MUNICH)



Marco Muttoni - Master, ETH

Giacomo Mastroddi - Master, ETH



Sahas Nigsehalli Sampathkumar - PhD, EPFL

Luc Bondaz - Post-Doc, EPFL



Leon Stein - Bachelor, HSG

Tim Vietze - Bachelor, HSG



Alexander Wolters - Master, ETH

Leonardo Benini - Bachelor, TUM



Kevin Willeit

Janik Meier

Findmee was not awarded a Team Kick through the open call. Instead, the team emerged from another Kick Foundation initiative—Idea Kick. This marked the first successful transition of a team from Idea Kick into Talent Kick. Beyond the individual case, this transition opens the door to a more intentional flow of talent from Idea Kick to Talent Kick and onward to Venture Kick, strengthening the Kick Foundation’s talent funnel and ensuring that entrepreneurial teams are supported consistently at every step of their journey.

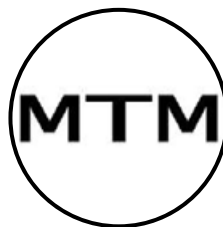
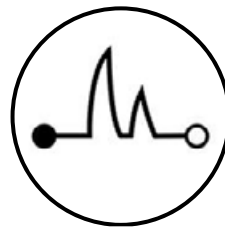
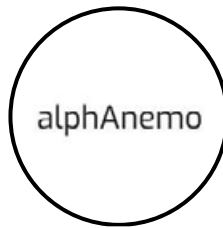


Team Kick TK-S25 at Startup Nights

In November, we awarded the Team Kick of CHF 5,000 to 18 outstanding TK-S25 teams. Once again, the ceremony took place at the industry-leading Startup Nights, where each winning team had the opportunity to pitch on the main stage.

This year, more than 9,500 changemakers shaping the future of entrepreneurship gathered at Startup Nights - including founders, investors, ecosystem supporters, and industry leaders - providing an exceptional audience for our Team Kick winners. Discover more about the TK-S25 winning teams in the following pages.

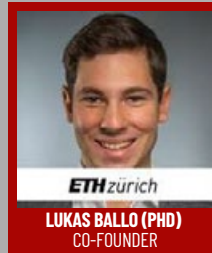
18 TEAM KICK WINNERS



Meet the

GONEON revolutionizes urban planning with agentic AI. Its AI-native planning service unifies transport networks, street space, and urban design into a single digital twin.

"WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BUILT A STRONG TEAM AND ADVISORY BOARD, RUN PROFITABLE PILOTS EXCEEDING CHF 200K+, AND NOW LAUNCH OUR GLOBAL 100 CITIES CHALLENGE. TALENT KICK CONNECTED US WITH CRUCIAL CONTACTS AND GUIDANCE, THE COACHING AND NETWORKING HAVE BEEN THE PROGRAM'S MOST VALUABLE PART."



DEEPTERRA makes spatial intelligence more accessible with LLMs.

"THE PITCHING SESSIONS AND THE FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN REFINING OUR PRODUCT AND DRIVING PROGRESS. OVERALL, TALENT KICK HAS BEEN PIVOTAL FOR OUR TEAM'S DEVELOPMENT."

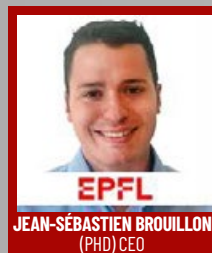


DeepTerra



ALPHANEMO enables wind energy harvesting in places where conventional turbines are too costly.

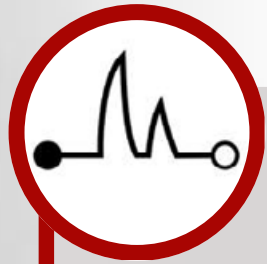
"THE PART ABOUT WHAT MAKES GREAT TEAMS IS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR US. IT CAN BE HARD TO FIND THE RIGHT TEAM MATES, YET ONE STILL NEEDS TO BE VERY PICKY. THE FACT THAT MANY MEMBERS FORM THEIR TEAMS WITHIN TALENT KICK REALLY TEACHES EVERYONE HOW THIS PROCESS GOES AND HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS FAST!"



alphAnemo



Winners



SAFORA develops reliable, low-cost fence monitoring devices to help wildlife reserves detect breaches instantly and prevent poaching.



AXEL BARBELANNE
(MSC) CEO



MATTHIJS STEYERBERG
(MSC) CTO

"WITHIN TALENT KICK, WE ARE MOST PROUD OF HOW WE GREW FROM AN IDEA INTO A VALIDATED VENTURE WITH CLEAR NEXT STEPS. SUCCESSFULLY PITCHING OUR SOLUTION, RECEIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK, AND REFINING OUR STRATEGY THROUGH THE PROGRAM GAVE US THE CONFIDENCE AND TOOLS TO ENGAGE PARTNERS BEYOND TK. THIS FOUNDATION HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROGRESS WE'RE MAKING TODAY."



NEUROGAUGE develops AI tools to help physicians determine optimal neurostimulation treatment parameters pre-operatively for each patient.



SONYA GREGOIR (BSC)
CO-FOUNDER



ANDREAS ROWALD
CO-FOUNDER

"I JOINED TALENT KICK BECAUSE I WANTED TO EXPLORE AND PUT A VENTURE CONCEPT TO THE TEST. SINCE THEN I HAVE RECEIVED VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND FEEDBACK, AND HAVE EXPANDED MY NETWORK."



BELONGING is your emotional guide on the migrant journey, accompanying you to navigate the challenges and find a safe space where you feel at home.



LORENA HERRERA CASTRO
(MSC) CEO



DORIAN HERE
(PHD) CTO

"TALENT KICK HELPED US FIND CLARITY IN OUR VISION AND CONNECT WITH MENTORS. WITH THEIR SUPPORT, WE BUILT A STRONGER TEAM WITH CLEAR ROLES AND A FOCUSED DIRECTION."

MTM alleviates the administrative burden of healthcare workers to make the increasing amount of healthcare data more accessible.



"TALENT KICK SERVED AS GUARDRAILS TO FUNNEL OUR AMBITIONS TOWARDS A WORKING PRODUCT. BY HAVING MULTIPLE IN-PERSON MEETINGS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, WE WERE ABLE TO CONNECT OUR PERFORMED TEAM WITH LIKE-MINDED PEERS. WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE COME A LONG WAY FROM IDEATION TO REALIZATION."



LINUS LEDERMANN
(PHD) CEO



DOMINIC DIEM
(MSC) CO-CEO



FABIAN KAHLBACHER
(MSC) CO-CTO



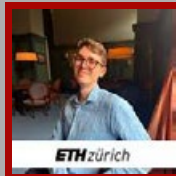
ONCOTARGET is developing a gastric cancer organoid platform to help clinicians guide patients to personalised, effective treatments.



"TALENT KICK ALLOWED US TO FORM THE CORE TEAM AND IDENTIFY WHICH ROLES ARE NEEDED TO BRING ONCOTARGET A STEP FURTHER. WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE WON THE TEAM KICK AWARD, REFLECTING OUR JOURNEY OF PERSONAL AND TEAM GROWTH."



GIOVANNI PAPA
(PHD) CEO



GUIDO PUTIGNANO
(MENG) CPO



LORENZO SCALISE
(MSC) CBD



MARTINA CURCIO
(MSC) COO



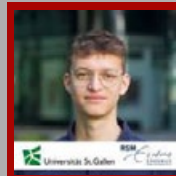
KAYBA gives ChatGPT, Claude, etc. persistent memory & context management tools to unlock AI's full potential.



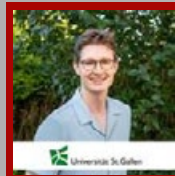
"TALENT KICK WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING US FORM OUR TEAM THROUGH STRUCTURED NETWORKING - FINDING CO-FOUNDERS THROUGH THIS PROCESS WAS ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING OUR CORE TEAM."



SVEN JONSCHER
(MSC) TECH LEAD



FLIP MITSKE (MSC)
STRATEGY LEAD



ANTHONY BOSCHUNG
(MSC) GROWTH LEAD



HEIZLI automates heat pump design with computer vision, making installations cheaper, faster, and accessible to all homeowners.



"WE'RE MOST PROUD OF HAVING FORMED OUR IDEA INTO A CONCRETE CONCEPT AND VALIDATED IT WITH MENTORS AND INDUSTRY FEEDBACK. THE MOST VALUABLE PART HAS BEEN THE MOTIVATION TO START. BEFORE TALENT KICK WE WERE TOO AFRAID TO PURSUE THIS ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEA BECAUSE OF ALL THE UNKNOWN, BUT THE PROGRAM GAVE US THE CONFIDENCE AND STRUCTURE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS."



UGNE POTTHOFF
(PHD) CO-FOUNDER



MAX MAY
(PHD) CO-FOUNDER





LIFEMETRIX measures biological age and other methylation-based metrics to turn invisible health risks into actionable prevention.



"WE ARE MOST PROUD OF HAVING BUILT A STRONG AND COMMITTED TEAM, GAINING VALUABLE MENTORSHIP, AND ACHIEVING CLARITY ON OUR NEXT STEPS. THROUGH OUR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN TALENT KICK, WE HAVE ALSO EARNED THE TRUST AND RECOGNITION OF OUR COLLEAGUES AND SUPERVISORS, WHICH HAS STRENGTHENED OUR CONFIDENCE AND MOMENTUM MOVING FORWARD."



AVENTO Avento enables extreme sports athletes worldwide to trade used gear efficiently and safely.



"WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO JOIN THE TK-S25 BATCH AND TO WORK CLOSER WITH TALENT KICK!"



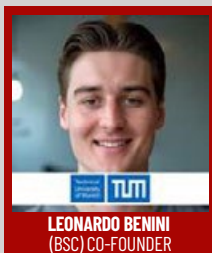
ELENIR develops a B2B vertical software for district heating operators to optimize their operation and maximize their revenues.



"THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM HELPED US MAKE AN IMPORTANT SHIFT FROM A PURELY ENGINEERING MINDSET TO ALSO CONSIDERING THE BUSINESS SIDE OF BUILDING A VENTURE. IT CONNECTED US WITH LIKE-MINDED, MOTIVATED PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE SAME ENTREPRENEURIAL DRIVE AND ARE WILLING TO TAKE ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER."



HELMIT is an AI-powered guardian that protects children from digital threats like grooming or cyberbullying on social media platforms.



"THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM REFINED OUR VISION, ENHANCED OUR EXECUTION CAPABILITIES, AND STRENGTHENED OUR TEAMWORK."

LUXPRICER empowers luxury resellers with AI-powered valuations, replacing guesswork with data-driven confidence to boost sales and profit.

LuxPricer

"TALENT KICK INSPIRED US TO GET OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE AND CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN GUIDE US ALONG THE WAY."



SONYA PLESHCHEVA
(MSC) CO-FOUNDER



VESTIN HATEGKIMANA
(PHD) CO-FOUNDER



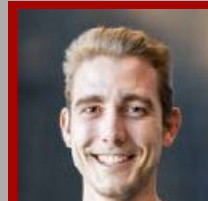
CHARLIE CHENG
(MSC) CO-FOUNDER



DELTASPARK transforms captured carbon into value by mineralizing CO₂ on-site while producing clean hydrogen.

Deltaspark+

"TALENT KICK GAVE US THE MOMENTUM TO TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION AND THE FREEDOM TO CHALLENGE THEM. THROUGH COACHING WE QUESTIONED OUR ASSUMPTIONS, REFRAMED OUR DIRECTION, AND PIVOTED TOWARD A USE CASE WHERE WE CAN CREATE THE GREATEST IMPACT."



LUC BONDAZ (PHD)
CEO



**SUHAS NUGGEHALLI
SAMPATHKUMAR (PHD) CTO**



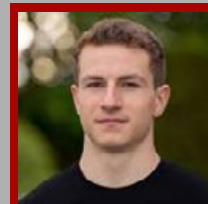
FINDMEE empowers construction companies with full asset transparency and automated workflows in maintenance & cost tracking.

Findmee

"THE TALENT KICK PROGRAM HELPED US CONNECT WITH NEW PEOPLE, STRENGTHEN OUR TEAM, AND SHARPEN OUR COLLABORATION."



KEVIN WILLEIT
CEO



JANIK MEIER
CTO



DAN helps contemporary art galleries make sustainable income by enabling art investors to easily purchase shares of art pieces they like in galleries.

DAN
Decentralised Art Network

"TALENT KICK HELPED US FORM A ROBUST TEAM, WHERE THE GOALS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ALIGN CLOSELY WITH THE GOALS OF THE PROJECT. THROUGH LEARNING FROM A VARIETY OF FOUNDERS, COACHES, AND OTHER EXPERTS, WE GOT EXPOSED TO A VARIETY OF WAYS OF DOING THINGS AND WERE ABLE TO FIND WAYS THAT SUPPORT OUR GOALS AND THE GOALS OF THE PROJECT."



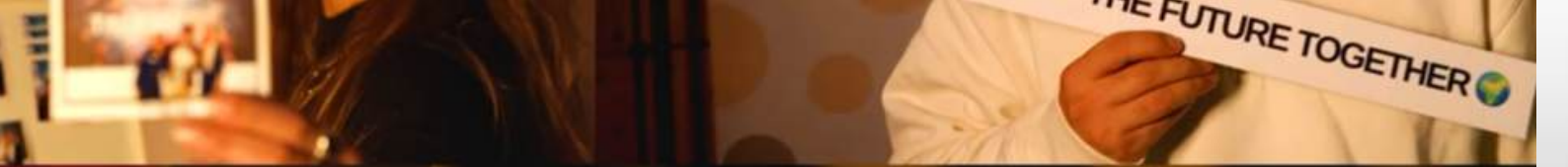
ANNA LYTUVNOVA
(PHD) CEO



FRASER SIMPSON
(MSC) CPO







TALENT KICK
2025

GRADUATION CEREMONY

WATCH OUR GRADUATION AFTERMOVIE



Graduation 2025

In September, we gathered at Innovation Park Zurich for the Talent Kick 2025 Graduation Ceremony - a celebration of our six graduating startups, their achievements, and the community that has supported them along the way. As Cecilia Molina, our Deputy & Manager Switzerland, shared in her opening, the support we provide to founders is powered also by a strong community - partners, foundations, mentors, coaches, universities, and entrepreneurs working together to empower the next generation of founders.

We welcomed three inspiring guest speakers from the Talent Kick community: Professor Roland Siegwart, who shared the vision behind the Kick Foundation funnel - from Idea Kick to Talent Kick to Venture Kick - strengthening Switzerland as a hub for business and innovation; Alexander Kübler, Talent Kick alumnus (Co-founder of RoBoa, TK-S21), who reflected on his journey from ETH Zürich to building one of Switzerland's top startups, sharing valuable insights; and Matteo Pinna, Talent Kick 2025 Graduate (Co-Founder of Safespace Research, TK-A24), who offered an inspiring inside view into being part of the Talent Kick program, growing as a leader & being supported by mentors and coaches.

The ceremony also gave space for personal reflections from each graduating team, who shared their journey until this point, the challenges they've navigated, and the vision for their startups. We closed the evening with a celebratory apéro together with the wider community, a moment not only to celebrate alongside the people who supported the teams along the way but also a chance to make new connections for the future.

Discover our Graduating Stars, and their trailblazing startups, in the following pages!



The Graduating

fortyfour

DISCOVER MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE



fortyfour is a deep-tech startup revolutionizing sustainable and low-cost CO2 supply. It was co-founded by Pedro Reina (HSLU) and Henry Müller (HSG), who met during Talent Kick and joined forces to bring an end to fossil dependence through developing cost-efficient Direct Air Capture (DAC) technologies for agricultural and industrial markets. The team has developed a fully-electric DAC system that extracts CO2 directly from ambient air. While fossil-derived CO2 is increasingly experiencing volatile supply chains and tightening regulations, fortyfour's technology enables on-site, flexible, and scalable CO2 production. This makes it possible to meet the diverse requirements of different markets, from CO2 enrichment in greenhouses, to supplying CO2 to e-fuels, chemicals, and the food & beverage industry.

The startup, incorporated in July this year, has already secured more than 10 Letters of Intent (LOIs) from prospective customers and has attracted more than CHF 400,000 in non-dilutive funding, including support from Startfeld, EIT Food, First Ventures, Venture Kick, and the co-founders' universities, HSG and HSLU. fortyfour is currently finalizing its first large-scale prototype and is preparing for their first fundraising round with a projected close in January to accelerate growth.

Frojigo

DISCOVER MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE



Frojigo is an AI-powered SaaS platform that is at the forefront of the sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) software space. It was co-founded by Ioannis Koureas (ETH Zürich) and Antreas Koureas, who came together to make sustainability and ESG data more transparent and actionable. The startup's platform helps businesses manage sustainability data, simplify ESG compliance, and enhance transparency by providing industry-specific tools. By using a blended solution that leverages quantitative and qualitative data, scientific results, and AI-powered analytics, Frojigo helps companies transform unstructured data into actionable, data-driven insights.

The team has already secured 6 Letters of Intent (LOIs) and is currently running a pilot project. They have received support and coaching from Innosuisse and secured ~CHF 155,000 in non-dilutive funding, including grants from RIF and others. The team is currently completing its MVP and onboarding new part-time members.

g Stars of 2025



HEPHAISTOS

DISCOVER MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE 



Hephaistos is a biotech startup revolutionizing chemical manufacturing with a pipeline that designs novel enzymes from scratch. This can save 30% of manufacturing cost and reduces CO2 emissions by 50%. The startup was co-founded by Lukas Merlicek, Lukas Radtke, Jannik Neumann, Moritz Ullhofen, Arthur Theuer, and Ilya Schneider, who met during their studies at ETH Zürich. Together, they bring expertise in machine learning, wet lab research, chemistry and market strategy. By harnessing enzymes - nature's own biocatalysts - Hephaistos replaces traditional, often harsh and energy-intensive chemical synthesis processes. Their technology offers sustainable and efficient solutions for the chemical, agricultural, and pharmaceutical industries.

The company is currently completing their Proof of Concept (PoC) to validate its technology. They have already secured early interest from more than 10 potential customers and are in discussions for a first industrial pilot. Hephaistos has benefited from a wide range of ecosystem support through programs like Climate Founders, the Student Project House and Venture Kick. They have already secured further non-dilutive funding after Talent Kick, including the Biocincubate ignite grant and grand prize, as well as several more grants from SPH and others, totalling over CHF 20,000. Hephaistos is actively seeking investment, and lab equipment to fuel its growth.

The Graduating



Safespace Research

DISCOVER MORE ON
THEIR WEBSITE



Safespace Research is a deeptech project advancing mental health support, built on frontier applied AI research from ETH Zürich, the ETH AI Center, and the Swiss AI Initiative. It is the first AI-based system to combine behavioral science with a peer support network, integrating generative AI with existing mental health infrastructures. Safespace operates as a B2B2C platform targeting two groups: universities, health insurers, and corporations as clients, and their students, beneficiaries, and employees as end users. In a pilot with ETH Zürich's student counseling services, students with depressive symptoms used the app more frequently and shared more openly about their feelings.

Safespace is now in advanced discussions with ETH Zürich for a multi-year roll-out and has strong interest from additional universities in Switzerland and the EU. Validation in this space would open a path into corporate wellness and health insurance markets, where telemedicine is evolving toward hybrid digital-human models, and access to AI-based therapy enhancement can increase both the effect of preventative measures and employee satisfaction. To date, the project has secured CHF 140,000 in non-dilutive funding, including a CHF 130,000 grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation and Innosuisse Bridge Proof of Concept, plus CHF 275,000 in cloud credits from Google, Azure, and OpenAI.

g Stars of 2025



DISCOVER MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE



Sensora is a medtech startup that aims to revolutionize early breast cancer detection through non-invasive biosensor technology. Co-founded by Dr. Rita Sarkis, Alessandro Fulciniti, Pier Albino Colombo, and Fabio Depetris - a team of translational scientists, life science engineers, AI, and microtechnology experts - Sensora uses AI and olfactory proteins to detect cancer-specific molecules (volatile organic compounds, or VOCs) in sweat.

These biomarkers, linked to cancer's metabolic changes, enable early diagnosis, potentially boosting survival rates from 30% (late-stage-case) to over 99% (early-stage case).

Partnering with Lausanne's CHUV and OlfaCanis, Sensora is developing an ethical protocol to collect sweat samples for clinical validation. Thanks to 35k CHF granted by EPFL's "enable" program, they were able to build a lab-scale proof-of-concept and are now advancing their biosensor prototype for clinical validation in 2026.



DISCOVER MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE



Forgis is a startup transforming the industrial automation sector with the first "Agentic Development Environment" (ADE) powered by AI. It was co-founded by Camilla Mazzoleni (ETH Zürich) and Federico Martelli (University of St. Gallen) during Talent Kick, later joined by Riccardo Maggioni (ETH Zürich) to strengthen the team's technical foundation. Their platform simplifies how engineers interface with industrial hardware, using AI agents to design, test, and deploy industrial automation applications for robots and programmable logic controllers. This technology aims to accelerate robot programming, manage complexity, and reduce environmental impact.

Forgis has already conducted 2 pilots, secured 4 Letters of Intent (LOIs), and established a partnership with IBM. They have secured the support of several organisations such as Innosuisse, and Venture Kick. The startup has now raised \$4.5M in a pre-seed funding round led by redalpine with contribution from several Swiss investors and supporters including Venture Kick to fuel the next industrial revolution.

Reflections from

fortyfour

"Talent Kick offers a really nice framework while studying to work on a startup very practically. It helped with a lot of decision-making to structure your time but also to keep you engaged and motivated to pursue that path. Once you go out of your study programme you already want to have something going on for yourself so it keeps you pushing. I think that that was very helpful for us as a team."



Henry Müller (PhD) - Co-founder



Pedro Reina (MSc) - Co-founder

Frojigo

"From the very first workshop of the Talent Kick program, we were focused a lot on building a strong team, and this started from understanding our own characters. This helps later on to find co-founders and other team members with complimentary skills. Another thing that I found extremely useful during the Talent Kick program was coaching sessions and the support we received, which helped us to address many challenges and understand how to build a long and lasting team."



Ioannis Koureas (PhD) - CEO



Katerina Economou - ESG Analysis



Atanas Lambov - Software Developer



Sophia Economides - Developer

Our Graduates

HEPHAISTOS

"The program really helped us to shape our idea into more than an idea and eventually end up with this startup that we came up with and it really also helped us to gain a lot of insights into what it means to become an entrepreneur and to lead a startup. On the business side of things, I think we started with this tech idea. So we really wanted to solve this technical problem and not really care, especially in the beginning, of the business side of things, and I think this is one area where we really improved a lot."



Lukas Radtke - CEO



Lucas Merlicek - CTO



Janik Neumann - Product Manager



Arthur Theuer - Systems / ML Engineer



Ilya Schneider - Head of BD



Moritz Ullhofen - Head of Lab

✦ Forgis®

"Talent Kick provided useful knowledge in the entrepreneurial world, useful connections, and the right amount of pressure to help us kick off our venture. We are also very proud of our MVP, our advisory board and our pitching deck."



Federico Martelli - CEO



Camilla Mazzoleni - CPO



Riccardo Maggioni - CTO



4.7/5 rating by participants

95% described the day as inspiring, motivating and well organised

100% rated the TK team as extremely friendly

Networking & Community named as top highlights

81% with 5/5 interest in applying to TK by the end of the day

“I really felt that change in myself, from uncertainty to ‘ok, this is the place to try to do something!’ Thank you, and thanks to the whole Talent Kick team, for such an amazing and inspiring day!”

“A fantastic opportunity to connect with inspiring founders and alumni.”

“The community and energy were amazing.”

“Everything was super well-organized and friendly.”

-Immersion Day Participants

Immersion Day

In September, we hosted our very first Talent Kick Immersion Day at Innovation Park Zurich — a new initiative designed to convert early interest from potential applicants into concrete applications for the Talent Kick program. The Immersion Day welcomed aspiring entrepreneurial talents for a hands-on introduction to the early-stage startup journey and the Talent Kick experience, helping them better understand what it takes to join the program. Through interactive workshops, inspiring panels, and direct exchanges with alumni, founders, and members of our community, participants gained practical insights into navigating early-stage entrepreneurship and the Talent Kick opportunity. The day also offered the chance to pitch their way into the program and fast-track their application, enabling outstanding participants to secure an early spot in the upcoming batch ahead of the regular application process.



Further Highlights

TK-S25 Kickoff

This year, we welcomed the TK-S25 cohort at the University of Bern, bringing together a diverse group of ambitious students and researchers ready to begin their entrepreneurial journey. The Kickoff marked both a celebration of our newest batch's commitment to entrepreneurship and a reflection of what defines Talent Kick: a strong and supportive community of entrepreneurial leaders, mentors, partners, and student founders dedicated to empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs.

The program began with interactive icebreakers and networking sessions, enabling participants to connect, exchange ideas, and start building meaningful relationships. One of the highlights of the day was a panel discussion featuring more advanced Talent Kick founders, who shared first-hand insights into balancing academic responsibilities with the demands of building a startup: Elina Teplygina (Safespace Research), Alessandro Fulciniti (VOCTECX), and Mario Tawfik (ClairVault).

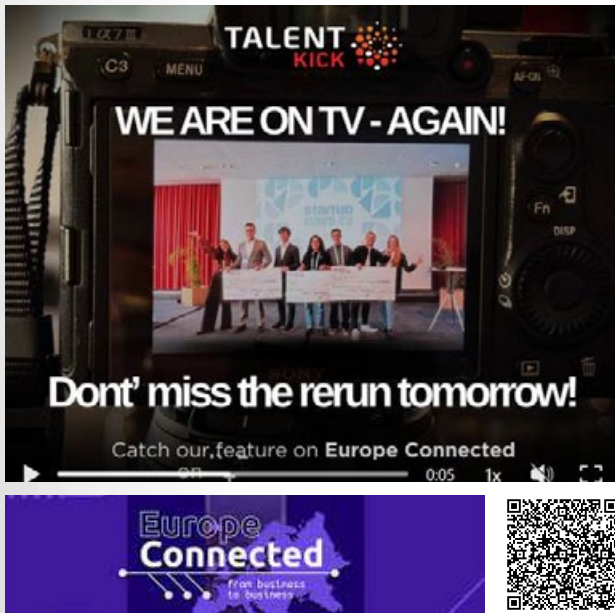


TK X >>venture>> Pitching Competition

In addition to the Kick-Off, we co-hosted again for the third time our exclusive pitching competition in collaboration with the >>venture>> Startup Competition. Advanced Talent Kick participants presented their ventures to an expert jury assembled by >>venture>>, offering the TK-S25 cohort a valuable perspective on the progress that can be achieved within just a few months and the chance for the advanced teams to receive visibility and special access to >>venture>> mentoring tool in the 2025 competition with 5x3h mentoring time with mentors of the startup choice. We extend our thanks to the >>venture>> Startup Competition team, as well as Lea Firmin and Priscilla Sarnau, for their continued support and commitment to showcasing and strengthening Switzerland's most promising startup teams. We are also grateful to the Innovation Office of the University of Bern for hosting this event and sharing inspiring words with our newest batch members. Their support contributed significantly to the success of the 2025 Kickoff.



Talent Kick on Dutch Television



We're proud to have been selected as one of eight outstanding Swiss initiatives featured in the new international Dutch TV series **Europe Connected**, which spotlights Europe's pioneers in innovation, sustainability, technology, creativity, and social impact.

In the series, Viviana Gropengiesser, CEO of Talent Kick, shares how Switzerland is shaping the future by empowering highly driven students to build strong co-founder teams, grow into responsible entrepreneurial leaders, and turn science-based innovation into real-world impact for society.

Watch the episode here to learn how Talent Kick and the Kick Foundation are helping shape Switzerland's future. We're proud to be part of the strong Kick Foundation funnel—strengthening Switzerland as a business and innovation location by promoting young entrepreneurial talent across Swiss schools and universities.

Talent Kick Mentor & Founder Dinner

In January, we brought together mentors and Talent Kick alumni for a **Crime Dinner** that combined meaningful connections with a playful challenge. Successful founders joined us not only to mingle and share experiences, but also to put their entrepreneurial skills to the test through a team-based crime investigation.

The evening was a lot of fun, and the feedback was clear: our founder community truly values these moments to connect, engage, and enjoy time together to build deep and strong connections. For us, it was the perfect occasion to keep our alumni and founder community close and engaged—strengthening relationships with inspiring role models who generously give back by contributing their time and expertise as mentors, speakers, interviewers in our selection process, and supporters throughout our program.



Full Circle Mentoring Moment

As the teams taking part in the earliest editions of Talent Kick mature post-Series A, we are now experiencing a powerful evolution of the peer-to-peer community support. A great example of this is EthonAI cofounder Bernhard Kratzwald (TK-S21) mentoring TK-S25 team heizli, cofounded by Ugne Potthoff and Maximilian May. Collaborations like these are essential for the strength and growth of our founders and the Talent Kick community, and we are looking forward to the prospect of more such synergies arising as both the program and the alumni startups mature.



Further Highlights

Talent Kick's Entrepreneur Panel

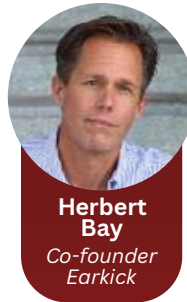
In 2025, Talent Kick expanded and placed greater strategic focus on its Entrepreneur Panel, strengthening its role as a core pillar of the program. This panel brings together experienced founders, investors, and ecosystem leaders who actively contribute to Talent Kick across selection, mentoring, and community engagement.

Through its expanded Entrepreneur Panel, Talent Kick ensures that emerging founders are supported by relevant, real-world experience from the very start.

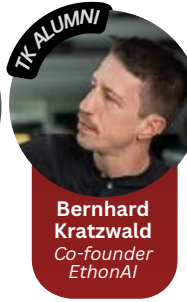
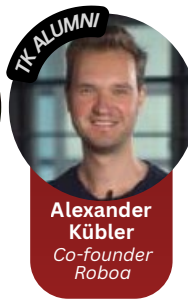
This year we highlight our...

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTING TALENT KICK LONGTERM:

INTERVIEWERS FOR
4 BATCHES



INTERVIEWERS FOR
3 BATCHES



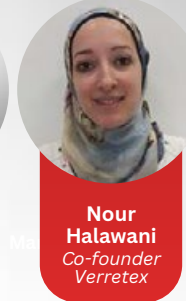
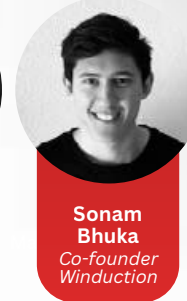
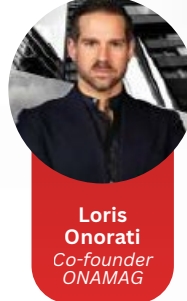
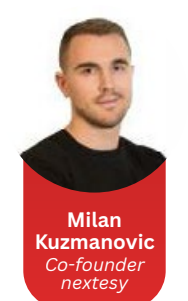
INTERVIEWERS FOR
2 BATCHES



“What I love about Talent Kick is that it's supporting young entrepreneurs when it matters the most - the beginning. First steps are most often the hardest, and a hand given to you when you're at the beginning is worth a hundred those given to you once you're on the top. It's been a true pleasure to give a small contribution to this cause and meet such an exceptional batch of future star entrepreneurs!”

- Milan Kuzmanovic, Interviewer - Co-founder, nextesy

ENTREPRENEURS NEWLY SUPPORTING TALENT KICK:



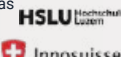

Six Co-Founder Match-Making Events Co-Hosted






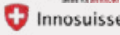
Finding the right co-founders and building a strong and aligned team isn't just important - it's often the difference between a startup that grows and one that doesn't make it past year one.


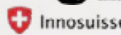
This year, we co-hosted six co-founder matching and team-forming events, sharing what we've learned from supporting more than 120 teams to form in the Talent Kick program and helping new talents finding their match.


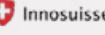
Four of those events were co-hosted as part of the innosuisse training module in collaboration with local partners and two others with student organisations, START Global in St Gallen and UNIL-EPFL Entrepreneur club, as part of the Global Entrepreneurship week.

Mar. 19 Team-forming workshop with HSLU as part of the Innosuisse Module Luzern



Oct. 22 Co-founder Matching with with START Global St. Gallen



Nov. 20 Co-founder matching event with Basel Area as part of Innosuisse Module Basel



Oct. 8 Co-founder Matching with USI Startup Center as part of Innosuisse module Lugano



Oct. 30 Co-founder Matching Event with Venturelab as part of Innosuisse module Lausanne



Nov. 20 Co-founder Matching with EPFL & UNIL EC as part of 2025 GEW Lausanne





Innovations & New Projects

New **Integrations** with Degree/Study Programs



Partnering with **IGE**



In 2025, Talent Kick entered a partnership with the **Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, IGE**. Over the course of 3 years, IGE will support Talent Kick founders to understand and navigate the world of intellectual property, and to access IGE's profound expert network. At the same time, Talent Kick functions as a strong bridge for IGE's activities in the Swiss-wide academic sector, providing access and visibility to young and entrepreneurial research talents. We are grateful to partner with such a profound federal entity, and are looking forward to together advance IP literacy amongst academic founders.

This year, two Talent Kick graduates were able to dedicate the final six months of their studies to working on their own startups as part of their Master's theses - a powerful example of how academic work and entrepreneurship can be meaningfully combined.

- Pedro Reina (HSLU) conducted research that directly fed into the development of his startup, FortyFour.
- Alessandro Flucini (EPFL) similarly used his Master's thesis research to advance his startup, Sensora.

We consistently observe that when students are able to spend a significant portion of their studies — such as a six-month Master's thesis — working on their own startup and project, it substantially eases the transition into full-time entrepreneurship after graduation. This dedicated time makes a tangible difference in both the maturity of the project and the founder's readiness to build their venture.

Together with our university partners, one of our shared goals is to further facilitate entrepreneurship during studies. Enabling students to write their Master's thesis within the context of their own startup is a concrete and highly effective way to achieve this.

In line with this objective, we partnered this year with Studyond. Studyond has developed an AI-supported platform that connects companies, students, and universities through practically relevant thesis projects. The platform promotes knowledge transfer and strengthens collaboration between business and education.

For Talent Kick, this is a highly meaningful collaboration. It helps ensure that students are connected to the right support, experts, and professors for their Master's theses, while at the same time strengthening their startup projects. We look forward to further developing such opportunities, enabling more participants and more universities to offer Master's thesis pathways that actively support entrepreneurial ventures.



MEET OUR SCOUT AMBASSADORS

The Talent Kick Scout Ambassador Network

We also launched an exciting pilot to help identify and engage the next generation of entrepreneurial talent: the Talent Kick Scout Network. Across Switzerland, local “scouts” acted as on-the-ground ambassadors and direct points of contact for curious students and researchers. As founders from the Talent Kick community themselves, the scouts bring real, first-hand experience of the student entrepreneurial journey — enabling them not only to identify highly driven talents and potential next-gen entrepreneurs but also to authentically inspire, inform, and guide prospective participants as they take their next steps into entrepreneurship.

The pilot proved highly successful. 18% of TK-S26 applications came directly through the scouts, making the Scout Network one of our top and most compelling sources of applications. This clearly demonstrates the power of peer-to-peer outreach: hearing from someone only a few steps ahead in their entrepreneurial journey is both motivating and credible.

In addition, scouts represented Talent Kick at more than 30 events across Switzerland, significantly strengthening our on-the-ground presence and ensuring broad visibility within university and local startup communities nationwide.

- 4.5/5** SCOUT EXPERIENCE RATING
- 100%** RECOMMEND BEING A TK SCOUT
- 30+** EVENTS/TALKS ORGANISED BY SCOUTS
- 35+** APPLICATIONS FROM SCOUT EFFORTS

“
Talent Kick was the key enabler that started my entrepreneurial journey, I am so happy to be able to give back to the community and help grow the TK family with the next batch of talented young founders.
 ”

-Marie from REEcover



ST. GALLEN AREA

Annaleah Kressig
Scout and Co-founder
ARTENA



ZÜRICH/ LUZERN AREA

Marie Perrin
Scout and Co-founder
REECOVER



ZÜRICH/ LUZERN AREA

Alexandre Binninger
Scout and Co-founder
Dimoverse



BERN/NEUCHÂTEL/FRIBOURG AREA

Lorena Herrera Castro
Scout and Co-founder
Belonging



LAUSANNE AREA

Mengjie Zhao
Scout and Co-founder
KIIO



LAUSANNE AREA

Cristian Fortuna
Scout and Co-founder
CAREBOTICS



BASEL AREA

Jannik Neumann
Scout and Co-founder
Hephaistos

“
 Being a scout was a lot of fun and it was amazing to see how many people were excited about the program and super willing to help.
 ”

-Annaleah Kressig from Artena

“
 I had an absolute blast presenting Talent Kick and Carebotics at the EPFL Station to students from SIL, Laidlaw Foundation and the Excellence Scholarship programs...As a TK scout, I can confirm: the entrepreneurship potential in this new cohort is so high it should probably be regulated.
 ”

-Cristian from Carebotics

Innovations & New Projects

The Free Founders Agreement Masterclass in collaboration with  swisspreneur



This year, Talent Kick, in collaboration with Swisspreneur, co-launched a free masterclass on the Founders Agreement.

In this masterclass, we dive into the founders agreement and unpack the key discussions early-stage founders should have with potential co-founders to ensure alignment before embarking on a startup journey together. The session features insights from experienced founders and operators, including Melanie Gabriel (co-founder and former CMO of Yokoy), Christof Roduner (co-founder and VP Engineering & CIO at Scandit), and Viviana Gropengiesser (CEO of Talent Kick), who bring first-hand perspectives on building, scaling, and navigating complex founder dynamics.

Meet the instructors...



Viviana Gropengiesser
CEO Talent Kick



Christof Roduner
Co-Founder Scandit



Melanie Gabriel
Co-Founder and former CMO of Yokoy

“EVEN THOUGH WE ALREADY KNEW EACH OTHER, WORKING THROUGH **THE FOUNDERS AGREEMENT** HELPED US ALIGN ON A MUCH DEEPER LEVEL. THOSE LONG EVENINGS OF DISCUSSION AROUND THE FOUNDERS AGREEMENT MADE US REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHAT WE WERE BUILDING AND PUSHED US TO ASK QUESTIONS WE HAD NEVER ASKED OURSELVES BEFORE. IT HELPED US DEFINE OUR COMMITMENT AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S MOTIVATIONS, HELPING US TO STAY ALIGNED WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE. WITHOUT IT, WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FORMALIZE THIS DREAM OF OURS OR BECOME THE WELL-OILED MACHINE WE ARE TODAY. THANK YOU, TALENT KICK!”

-Hephaistos (TK Graduating Team 2025)

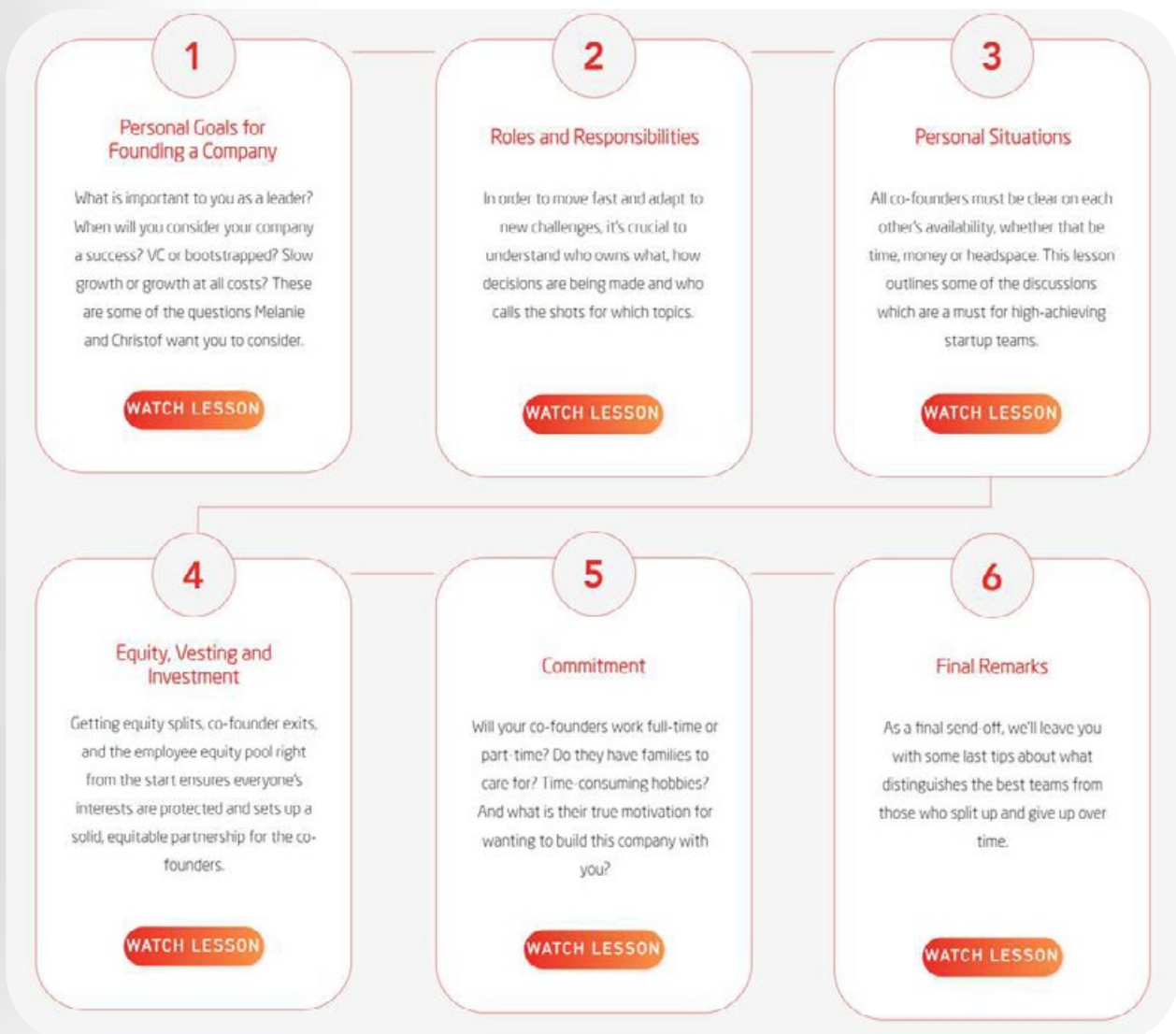
WATCH THE FOUNDERS AGREEMENT MASTERCLASS HERE



The Founders Agreement has already supported hundreds of young founders at Talent Kick and beyond – and now the most exciting part: it’s available to everyone, for free.

The collaboration with Swisspreneur significantly amplified the reach and visibility of this powerful tool for founding teams. In 2025, the masterclass videos were viewed 39,258+ times on YouTube, making it one of Swisspreneur’s most successful masterclasses to date.

We are excited to be able to bring this resource to a much broader founder community and to support even more early-stage teams at scale.



Student & Alumni

STRONG VENTURE KICK SUCCESS FOR TK TEAMS & ALUMNI IN 2025

goNEON (TK-S25) and **Pin Sport App** (TK-S24) were selected for Venture Kick's first stage of financial and entrepreneurial support, receiving CHF 10,000. **fortyfour** (TK-S24) won CHF 40,000 at Stage 2 for their innovative approach to greenhouse cultivation using direct air capture — a cleantech solution addressing sustainability in agriculture. **Uthereal** (TK-S22), **Hephaistos** (TK-S24), and **Deltaspark** (TK-S25) also won the second stage.

Alumni team, **RoBoa** (TK-S21), also celebrated a Venture Kick milestone, earning CHF 150,000 in support to continue developing their promising deep tech solution. Another Alumni team, **mimic** (TK-S23), secured CHF 1.1 million in funding through a mix of Innosuisse and Venture Kick support to develop their data collection capabilities and to push their go-to-market strategy. **Josepha** (TK-S23) and **Forgis** (TK-S24) all secured the third and final stage of Venture Kick in 2025.



TWO TALENT KICK TEAMS BECOME FINALISTS IN >>VENTURE>> COMPETITION

Two Talent Kick teams, **Manukai AG** (TK-S23) and **fortyfour** (TK-S24), reached the finals of the >>venture>> Startup Competition 2025, showcasing the high calibre of startups emerging from the Talent Kick program.

3 TK ALUMNI NAMED IN THE TOP 100 SWISS STARTUPS: ETHONAI, ROBOA & MIMIC



We're immensely proud to celebrate the success of three alumni who made it into the Top 100 Swiss Startups 2025 ranking: **EthonAi** – #12; **Roboa** – #28; **Mimic** – #59.

Their achievement underscores the continued impact our community has on Switzerland's vibrant innovation ecosystem. More details on the full ranking can be found at the Top 100 Swiss Startups website.

CHF 100'000 START-UP FUNDING FOR IMPLANZ

Talent Kick Alumni **IMPLANZ** (TK-S23) received CHF 100,000 in start-up funding from the Bern Economic Development Agency. Their tech helps surgeons assess bone quality before surgery, improving predictability and personalization in dental implantology.



be-advanced.ch
Standortförderung Bern unterstützt Implanz mit 100'000 Franken
Ittigen BE - Implanz erhält von der Standortförderung des Kantons Bern eine Starthilfe in Höhe von 100'000 Franken. Das Start-up entwickelt eine Technologie, die vor der...

TALENT KICK SELECTED AS ONE OF EUROPE'S LEADING STARTUP HUBS BY THE FINANCIAL TIMES & SIFTED

Talent Kick was selected by Sifted in collaboration with the Financial Times as one of Europe's leading startup hubs. The precise ranking will be published in 2026.



Success Stories

TWO TK TALENTS SELECTED FOR BRIDGE PROOF OF CONCEPT (POC) FELLOWSHIP

The BRIDGE funding programme is a joint initiative of Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), fostering the transformation of cutting-edge research into innovation. The fellowship offers up to CHF 130,000 to support the translation of ideas into impactful, real-world applications. Two TK talents, Alexandre Binninger (ETH Zurich) and Pedro Reina (HSLU) were among the eight selected fellows.

SWISS DEEP TECH REPORT 2025

Three TK Alumni were featured in the Swiss Deep Tech Report 2025. **Manukai AG** earned mention among AI × deep tech companies to watch, demonstrating the strength of Swiss innovation at the intersection of AI and foundational technology. **Mimic** was recognised as a leading robotics company to watch, reflecting its progress in AI-driven robotic manipulation technology. And **EthonAI** was highlighted as a rising star, showcasing its advancements in industrial AI applications.



REECOVER CO-FOUNDER MARIE PERRIN GOES FROM TALENT KICK TO ETH PIONEER FELLOWSHIP!

Marie Perrin, co-founder of **REEcover** and Talent Kick alumna, has been accepted into the prestigious ETH Pioneer Fellowship. The Pioneer Fellowship is ETH's deeptech accelerator program designed to launch ETH spin-offs and supports visionary projects like theirs, aiming to bridge the gap between research and real-world applications. This incredible achievement is bringing them one step closer to closing the loop on rare earths and shaping the circular economy. We can't wait to see the next milestones for REEcover!



4.5 MILLION PRE-SEED ROUND RAISED IN JUST 36 HOURS BY FORGIS

Forgis (TK-S24) closed a USD 4.5 million pre-seed round in just 36 hours, securing five term sheets from both US and European investors. Choosing to stay and scale in Europe, the team partnered with redalpine, with participation from Massimo Banzi (Founder of Arduino) and other manufacturing leaders.

Founded by Federico Martelli, Riccardo Maggioni, and Camilla Mazzoleni, Forgis is addressing a critical challenge in European manufacturing: fragmented, outdated industrial systems. The company is developing an AI-native orchestration platform for industrial plants—often described as a “Windows for factories”—designed to make automation plug-and-play rather than complex and slow. Congratulations Forgis on this incredible achievement.

Student & Alumni

INKVIVO RAISES CHF 1.1M TO TRANSFORM DRUG DELIVERY

InkVivo has successfully secured CHF 1.1 million in funding to reinvent how medicines are delivered. Their polymer-based formulation platform is designed to make treatments more effective, longer-lasting, and easier for patients, while providing pharma partners with faster development timelines and new intellectual property opportunities.

The round, backed by Tiventures SA, Claves Investments, and experienced business angels, will accelerate:

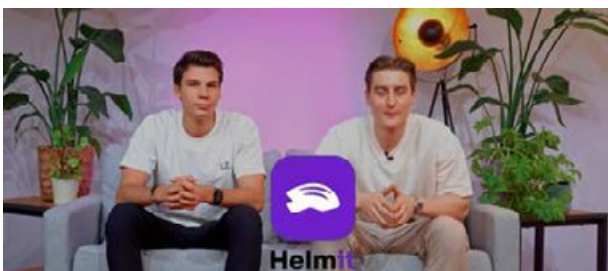
- Clinical development of InkVivo's lead anemia treatment
- Expansion of pharma and nutraceutical collaborations

This milestone marks a major step forward in InkVivo's mission to shape the future of smart drug formulation.



435K RAISED IN PRE-SEED FUNDING BY TK-S25 TEAM HELMIT

Helmit (TK-S25) raised an astounding \$435k in pre-seed funding to build privacy-first AI that protects kids from digital violence. Congratulations!



HEPHAISTOS ADVANCES TO INDUSTRIAL PILOT WITH UPORTUNITY SUPPORT



Hephaistos (TK-S24), a Swiss de novo enzyme design startup from D-BSSE, was accepted into the first ETH Uportunity cohort and received the Uportunity Grant, while advancing to the second stage of Venture Kick. The team has now launched its first industrial pilot with SpiroChem, moving from lab-scale innovation to real-world application and demonstrating the demand for custom-designed biocatalysts in industrial chemical synthesis. This milestone demonstrates the strong demand for custom-designed biocatalysts in industrial chemical synthesis and underscores Hephaistos' growing impact in biocatalysis and biotech innovation.

UTHEREAL CELEBRATES 1 YEAR AND A NUMBER OF INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Alumni team Uthreal officially turned 1 this year, marking 12 months of tackling some of the toughest challenges in applied AI — transforming expert knowledge into systems people can trust in complex industries.

In its first year, Uthreal signed its first customer in month one and grew to over 10 customers by year-end. The team was awarded the Innosuisse Innovation Grant (CHF 1M), selected as EWOR Fellows (top 0.1% of applicants), and advanced to Venture Kick Stage 2. They also completed the Microsoft for Startups AI Accelerator and expanded to a team of nine talented professionals.

These milestones underscore Uthreal's rapid growth and impact in the applied AI space.

Success Stories



MANUKAI: FROM EXPLORATION TO \$3M PRE-SEED SUCCESS

From exploration to execution, Manukai, a TK-S23 alumni startup, has reached an exciting milestone. Founders Pascal Weber and Daniel Wälchli joined the program with deep technical expertise. Through hundreds of customer interviews, countless iterations, and relentless focus, they identified a critical bottleneck in CNC machining and developed an AI-driven solution to address it.

Their efforts have now culminated in a \$3 million pre-seed funding round, highlighting the impact of combining brilliant talents with early-stage support. We are proud to have played a role in Manukai's journey and look forward to seeing their continued contribution to the future of manufacturing.

MIMIC RAISES \$16M TO BRING PHYSICAL AI TO INDUSTRY

TK alumni Mimic, has reached another major milestone, raising \$16 million to deploy its frontier physical AI across industries. The platform enables robots to perform intricate, dexterous, and manual tasks that traditionally rely on human skill.

Backed by Elaia and Speedinvest, with support from Founderful, 1st Kind, 10x Founders, 2100 Ventures, and Sequoia Scout Fund, Mimic is helping industries such as manufacturing, assembly, and logistics address critical labor shortages while revitalizing local production.

The funding will accelerate the development of Mimic's foundational AI model and humanoid robot hands and support deployments with leading global industry players. This milestone represents a significant step forward for European deep tech innovation.



FINDMEE WINS TECH-STARTUP AWARD 2025

Findmee (TK-S25), led by CEO Kevin Willeit and CTO Janik Meier, won the Tech-Startup Award Southeast Switzerland 2025, receiving CHF 3,000 for their innovative solution to digitize the construction industry.

The startup develops rugged sensors designed for tough construction environments, paired with software that tracks machine and employee usage on-site.

In addition to serving construction companies, Findmee collaborates on special projects with partners such as Menzi Muck, Hutter Baumaschinen, CSEM, and Innosuisse.

JOSEPHA SAVES MILLIONS FOR USERS CREATING A TANGIBLE IMPACT FOR ONLINE SHOPPERS

€148 million saved year-to-date reflects the economic value JOSEPHA (TK-S23) has generated for its users — an average of €177 per person, equivalent to a month of groceries.

Built to tackle opaque online pricing, JOSEPHA's AI scans every relevant offer across the internet, ensuring full transparency, no fake shops, and no hidden incentives. The result: trust and tangible savings.

User feedback captures the impact best:

- "For the first time, I feel that I do not have to overpay for products."
- "It helps me feel safe and confident when shopping online."
- "It's become indispensable. I can't imagine shopping without it anymore."

JOSEPHA is proof that AI can empower consumers rather than optimize ads.

Talent, Team & Alu

It all started with Talent Kick. I didn't have much more of an idea about what to do other than that I wanted to do something in AI, something cool, and kind of going the entrepreneurial journey. In a few months, it all came together. I found the team, I found the other guys, and we created Mimic. Talent Kick helped a lot to put me in the right mindset and know a lot about the very first steps of entrepreneurship to get this done.



TK has been great both for my growth as an entrepreneur and for the development of the project.

ANNA LYTVYNOVA, DAN

I really appreciate all the effort that you put into educating young entrepreneurs and that also shape a nice (human) mindset in people. It was always very pleasant to interact with you and it will be a pleasure to remain in contact with the ecosystem!

ALESSANDRO FULCINITI, SENSORA

These past months with Talent Kick have been a blast, those who haven't applied yet should really hurry up.

SONYA P (TK-S25)



Being part of Talent Kick was a turning point for me. The program gave me the tools to build REEcover and the right environment to explore problems hands-on and grow as an entrepreneur and a leader alongside top talents from across Switzerland, with the guidance of experienced mentors and peers who believe in you and support you in every step along the way.

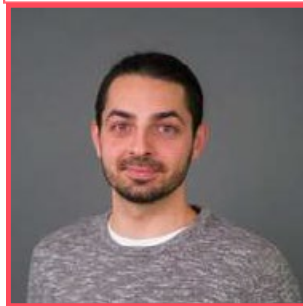
MARIE PERRIN (ALUMNI)



ELVIS NAVA, MIMIC (ALUMNI)

Our team coach also added a valuable outside perspective that helped us reflect, align, and grow as a team. And honestly, the TK team itself was a great sparring partner – always there with quick feedback and support when we hit a bump.

CALAIIDO (TK-A24)



Thank you, Talent Kick, for believing in us and helping us build a strong core team.

GIOVANNI PAPA (TK-S25)

Proud to be part of this community!

PEDRO REINA, FORTYFOUR



The co-workshop not entrepreneurs to have



Glad to be a part of Talent Kick!

JANNIK NEUMANN, HEPHAISTOS

Thank you very much Kick Foundation and the Gebert RUF Stiftung for the great support. The Idea Kick and Talent Kick programs have helped us gain a foothold in the Swiss ecosystem and take our startup to the next level. It was a pleasure being part of Talent Kick.

FINDMEE (TK-S25)

Calaido



Alumni Testimonials

We learned to handle downturns and unexpected issues calmly, while managing to solve them fast. This is greatly thanks to the Talent Kick program because the tools that the team teaches us help greatly in laying down a strategy and knowing what is already solid and what is still subject to uncertainty. The expertise about what makes great teams was also particularly valuable for us.

ALPHANEMO (TK-S25)



The Talent Kick program gave us a clear framework to openly discuss our values and align on strategies through bootcamps, coaching, and workshops.

LIFEMETRIX (TK-S25)



BERNHARD KRATZWALD,
ETHONAI (ALUMNI)



Talent Kick made me realize that becoming an entrepreneur is not only one of many career options to consider, but it really is what I want.

We're proud of having validated a real need and created our first MVP. Also, of growing as a committed and diverse team. During the program, the pitching practice gave us confidence, real feedback and the push to make our project concrete and actionable. Talent Kick helped us find clarity in our vision and connect with mentors.

BELONGING (TK-S25)



Super happy to be part of this amazing network!

ANNALEAH KRESSIG, ARTENA



Last week we have officially graduated from Talent Kick. We are extremely thankful to the entire TK team, who have supported us in our journey!

HEPHAISTOS (ALUMNI)

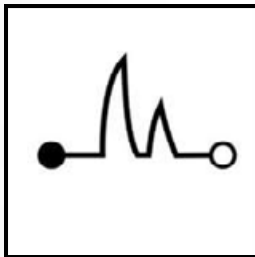


When I didn't know where to begin, Talent Kick gave me the chance to believe in my dream and turn it into action. With their support, I started Belonging, a project that gives emotional support to migrants and helps them face the challenges of adapting to a new country. This journey has been full of learning, courage, and growth. And today, I am very happy to share that I was selected as a Talent Kick Scout for the regions of Neuchâtel, Bern, and Fribourg. Grateful, proud, and happy to be part of the Talent Kick team.

LORENA HERRERA CASTR (TK-S25)

Combination of mentorship, tips, and structured feedback not only gave us practical managerial skills but also pushed important discussions as co-founders early on.

SAFORA (TK-S25)



The workshops have been very helpful in shaping our team's direction - we absorbed valuable insights from the market opportunity workshop specifically, which led us to rethink our product localization and refine our target market.

DEEPTERRA (TK-S25)



Words from our Partners

Talent Kick is a powerful complement to traditional university education. It allows students to tackle real entrepreneurial challenges, build an entrepreneurial mindset and strengthen key soft skills through interdisciplinary collaboration across Switzerland. Supported by expert coaching and a strong academic network, the program further expands the skill set and opportunities of the next generation of entrepreneurs.

SAMUELE MORALES, INCUBATOR COORDINATOR, USC. USI



Programs like Talent Kick are exactly what help turn Switzerland's outstanding student talent into the next generation of deep-tech founders. Talent Kick is proving once again how Switzerland's pipeline of young founders keeps getting stronger. Excited to see these startups grow!

CLIMB VENTURES, GENEVA



Talent Kick is a great program for students. We very much welcome and support the idea of starting the entrepreneurial journey during your studies. The program provides an excellent framework for honing your idea so that it can grow into entrepreneurial maturity. In addition, young talents are given the opportunity to develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills and network with peers and experts from various disciplines. There is no better way to start an entrepreneurial future.

LORENZ PROBST, CO-LEAD
ENTREPRENEURSHIP OFFICE, BFH



Congratulations to everyone who graduated! It is a privilege and pleasure to be a part of such an amazing community!

GERALD QUINNEY, EXECUTIVE COACH,
QUINNEY CONSULTING SÀRL

As a coach, I'm incredibly proud to be a part of the Talent Kick family. The support and guidance the talents receive is truly remarkable, and it's a privilege to witness their journey first-hand. I can wholeheartedly confirm that this is one of the most fulfilling partnerships. The strong sense of community and the dedication of the entire team are what make this program so special. To all students in Swiss universities: if you're ready to start your entrepreneurial journey, this is the place. Don't miss this incredible opportunity!

MARTIN WOLFER, LEADERSHIP COACH, WUNDERPUNKT



ners & Collaborators

We join in congratulating this year's graduating teams – and at the same time encourage you to apply for the next round! We already have startups at the Park that emerged from the Talent Kick program, such as Synature, and we truly hope more will follow!

Having seen the short pitches myself, some of these startups certainly have great potential!

MANUEL MERKI, FOUNDER PROY.AI,
LEAD STARTUP ADVICE (UZH)



SWITZERLAND INNOVATION PARK



Talent Kick plays an important role in nurturing thoughtful and ambitious entrepreneurial journeys, and I'm glad to contribute in a small way.

SÉBASTIEN NUSSLÉ,
INTERVIEWER - CO-FOUNDER GENKNOWME

Incredible to see how far the coaching program has developed since 2021. And it's really exciting to watch the journey continue with 2026 applications opening up right now. Such a pleasure to work with you, your team, the other coaches, Talent Kick and – of course – the brilliant Talent Kick coaches and their startup teams. Such a joy to be part of this community.

JOANNA WILLIAMS, POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY & EXECUTIVE COACH

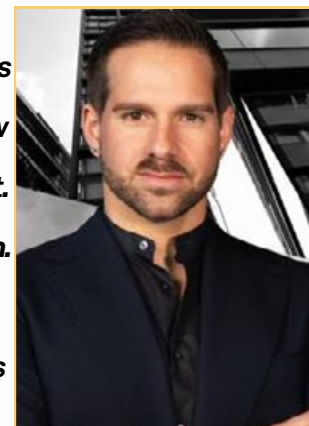
As an entrepreneur who launched my first startup right after my Bachelor's degree, I truly wish a program like Talent Kick had existed at the time. It provides the essential structure needed to avoid common pitfalls, offers access to expert coaches, and connects you with a community of fellow founders. Most importantly, it reinforces that building a company is a team sport, being a solo founder is significantly more challenging than having co-founders.

GUILLAUME GRANELLI, INTERVIEWER - SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR



Talent Kick is one of those rare initiatives that truly change trajectories. Engaging with such driven, curious, and ambitious talents at a very early stage is both inspiring and humbling. What stands out most is not only the quality of ideas, but the mindset: a willingness to think boldly, test assumptions, and grow fast. Looking back, having access to a program like Talent Kick at this stage of one's journey would have been an enormous advantage – a genuine head start. The combination of financial support, critical feedback, and exposure to experienced entrepreneurs accelerates learning in a way few environments can. Talent Kick does more than support individuals; it strengthens the entrepreneurial ecosystem as a whole. By empowering talent early, it creates long-term impact and enriches the entire startup scene. Being part of this journey and contributing to the selection and development of future founders is something I value greatly.

LORIS ONORATI, INTERVIEWER - CO-FOUNDER ONAMAG



Hearing from Our



This year, I focused on strengthening and scaling Talent Kick's partnerships to expand our reach across universities and research institutions and to build more connected, supportive entrepreneurial journeys for students and researchers across Switzerland. With the launch of the Talent Kick Scout Network, we empowered successful participants and alumni to become on-the-ground ambassadors, inspiring the next generation of founders through authentic, peer-to-peer engagement and significantly strengthening our presence within university and local startup communities swiss-wide.

To engage talent earlier and raise the quality of applications, we introduced the Immersion Day as an accessible, momentum-building entry point that better prepares candidates to apply, and piloted a new Team Kick Application Call to better identify, connect, and support teams already taking their first entrepreneurial steps through courses, programs, and competitions across the ecosystem. These initiatives strengthened both the quality and reach of our talent pipeline while reinforcing Talent Kick's role as a central connector and bridge within the academic and startup ecosystem.



CECILIA MOLINA
DEPUTY & MANAGER SWITZERLAND

In parallel, I led efforts to deepen study-to-startup pathways through university integrations and partnerships such as Studyond, enabling students to meaningfully combine academic work with building their own ventures. Together with our partners, we also co-hosted multiple co-founder matching and team-forming events and launched a free Founders Agreement masterclass with Swisspreneur. These collaborations position Talent Kick to scale its impact and support more early-stage founders in building the next generation of Swiss startups. Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue strengthening partnerships across academia and the broader ecosystem to translate our mission into even greater, long-term impact for future founders.



Dedicated Drivers

From an operational, financial, and governance perspective, 2025 was a year of consolidation, standardisation, and integration for scale. By applying a structured, large-scale mindset, core processes across multiple backend areas were professionalised and standardised, replacing fragmented workflows with reliable, repeatable systems. This work established a robust, ready for scale operational foundation designed to support growth without increasing complexity or administrative overhead.

In finance, the transition to a more transparent accounting setup aligned with international standards improved data integrity and financial oversight. Fundraising support was strengthened through structured templates and tracking systems, enabling systematic management of opportunities, deadlines, and reporting. In HR, key processes including contracts and general guidelines were standardised to ensure clarity and consistency as the organisation grows.

Operationally, a major behind-the-scenes focus this year was leading the development of two core documentation projects launching in 2026: the Talent Kick Handbook and the Employee Handbook. Together, they consolidate program knowledge, methodologies, and internal standards, enabling Talent Kick to scale its model while safeguarding quality, continuity, and organisational stability.

This year marked my first time witnessing a batch from kick-off through pitches and graduation, before returning to lead the selection of the next batch. Experiencing the full cycle revealed a simple truth shared by both the back office and the program itself: Impact is never accidental, it is shaped through intention, structure and a driven team. Because only when foundations are strong, talent dares to take risks, step into visions, and build solutions that matter. Looking into the next years, I am excited to continue building the foundations that allow Talent Kick's mission to unfold at its fullest potential.



GABRIELA ZAUGG
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Hearing from Our



In terms of Program Management, 2025 has truly been a year of optimisation and maturity. Through a systematic effort of consolidating our institutional memory and program management processes, and by professionalising our program planning setup, communication channels, and the program execution itself, the time investment of planning and operationally running the program has been reduced by close to 70% allowing program management to spend more high-quality time in supporting teams directly.

Through the program reviews, we naturally saw the emergence of two additional program streams; the formalised short-track into semester 2, and the Lean Talent Kick stream; a light-weight support framework for more mature teams looking to stabilise their team and product foundation. The Lean Talent Kick stream is set to pilot in 2026, while the semester 2 short-track - the Team Kick track - opened its first call already in the autumn of 2025. We then welcomed 5 exceptionally strong teams into the program, multiple of which have fundraised within a few months of being admitted, from



ANDREA LIDBERG
PROGRAM MANAGER

both Swiss and international supporters. To see this, as well as the incredible progress of the graduating teams, makes me very proud.

Another highlight of 2025 has been the closing of our 3-year program partnership with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, IGE. This collaboration allows the teams with a strong scientific basis to benefit directly from IGE's services and network to form a sound IP strategy, and to build the IP literacy essential for the commercialisation of their (often patentable) research. It is our hope that this increased awareness will support both the founders in their competitive positioning and in conversations with TTOs, and Switzerland as an economic centre for science-based innovation.



Dedicated Drivers



This year has been transformative in my journey with Talent Kick. I had the privilege of supporting our partnership management and representing our organization at key ecosystem events, where I witnessed firsthand the growing recognition of our impact in the community. A particular highlight was collaborating with Cecilia to establish and expand our scout network. This initiative proved instrumental in accelerating our mission, with our scouts becoming invaluable ambassadors who significantly amplified our outreach efforts and brought fresh perspectives to our work. Currently, I'm supporting the development of the whitelabel handbook for Talent Kick. This project has offered profound insights into the depth of expertise we've cultivated over the years. Documenting our methodology has been a powerful reminder of how far we've come and the robust foundation we've built. This year has been rich with learning and growth, and I'm energized about the possibilities ahead as we continue to scale our impact in the coming year.



REBECCA BÄHLER
EXECUTIVE TEAM ASSISTANT



2025 marked an exceptional year of growth for Talent Kick, driven by consistent engagement across our community and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through strategic events and authentic storytelling, we built meaningful connections with aspiring founders and ecosystem partners. Our social media strategy proved particularly effective, with alumni and startup spotlights emerging as our highest-performing content. Key events like Immersion Day created tangible engagement opportunities while reinforcing our brand identity. Behind these results was a commitment to consistency and quality across all touchpoints. Our Instagram presence strengthened through beautiful, cohesive visual storytelling, while LinkedIn evolved into a strategic channel with clearly defined content structure. Our refreshed website and YouTube channel showcase our journey with new branding that authentically represents Talent Kick and connects with prospective founders. This integrated approach, combining active participation in Switzerland's startup ecosystem with organic social media growth, significantly elevated our brand awareness and engagement.



CHIARA DRAGONETTI
SOCIAL MEDIA, MARKETING,
AND EVENTS



Special Thanks

STRATEGY BOARD



Director
Gebert Rüt Stiftung



Professor
ETH Zurich



Co-Founder & CEO
Futura Technologies AG



President
ETH Board



Education & Science
Ernst Göhner Stiftung



Executive Director
ETH AI Center

STEERING COMMITTEE & PARTNERS



Head of Innovation
Director Innovation Hub
UZH



Professor
ETH & HSG



Director ITEM-HSG
Professor
HSG



Head of Entrepreneurship
Innovation Office
University of Basel



Co-Director/COO
ETH AI Center
& Follow the Gradient



Manager
Entrepreneurship
ETH AI Centre



Professor
Innovation Management
University of Neuchâtel



Head Innovation Office
Program Integration
Uni Bern



Entrepreneurship Manager
Program Integration
ETH



Innovation Hub
Program Integration
UNIGE



Co-Head Entrepreneurship
Innovation Center
HSG



Co-Lead
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Business Angel & Partner
Redalpine



Programs Lead/VP
Innovation
EPFL



Innovation Manager
University of Fribourg



VP Engineering & CIO
Scandit AG



Innovation Manager
EHL Innovation Hub



Incubator Coordinator
Università della Svizzera
italiana

TALENT KICK
IS AN INITIATIVE BY THE KICK FOUNDATION



Talent Kick is an initiative by the **Kick Foundation**, a value creation pipeline for boosting entrepreneurship. The Kick Foundation provides Talent Kick with a strong organisational framework as part of a larger sustainable and synergetic Kick pipeline, offering an entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation funnel for the best talents in Switzerland in addition to the unique kickfund.

SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

**WISSENSCHAFT.
BEWEGEN**
GEBERT RUF STIFTUNG

Gebert RUF Stiftung has supported Talent Kick from the very start of the first pilot in 2021. As a foundation, they support entrepreneurial projects committed to impact in accordance with their motto "Science.Moving."

**ERNST GÖHNER
STIFTUNG**

Every year, **Ernst Göhner Stiftung** distributes a significant amount to charitable purposes in the areas of culture, the environment, social affairs, education and science. They have been supporting Talent Kick since 2022.



CONTACT

Talent Kick

Kick Foundation

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www.talentkick.ch

info@talentkick.com



FOLLOW THE JOURNEY

#TalentKick

#FollowTheJourney



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

VENTURE ●●●●●
KICK ●●●●●
A KICK FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

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From left: Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, Jordi Montserrat,
Dr. Pascale Vonmont, Philip Hassler, Philip Bodmer,
Dr. Suzanne Avedik, Beat Schillig



VENTURE KICK

THE PIPELINE SHAPING THE SWISS STARTUP LANDSCAPE

Since its founding in 2007, Venture Kick has supported more than 1,234 startups with a total budget of 102 million Swiss francs. These companies have gone on to attract over 10 billion francs in follow-on financing and create more than 16,100 new jobs. In many cases, the initial "kick" proved decisive for their later success.

This is exactly where the Kick Pipeline comes in: it forms the backbone of the Swiss startup ecosystem, continuously feeding talent, projects, and business ideas into leading support programs and to investors, where they can continue to grow. As a result, Venture Kick startups hold ranks 1 through 10 in the 2025 Top100 Swiss Startups and account for a total of 66 of the listed companies. Its quality is also recognized at the European level. Venture Kick ranks as one of the most effective early-stage startup supporters in Europe, reflecting the strength, consistency, and long-term impact of its model.

The importance of the pipeline becomes especially evident in national awards: whether De Vigier, EY Entrepreneur of the Year, Venture, the ZKB Pioneering Prize, or the HSG Accelerator – 70% of the later finalists and winners began their entrepreneurial journey with Venture Kick, and went on to succeed in these competitions.

But the impact goes beyond supporting individual startups. Today, Venture Kick alumni are active as jury members, investors, board members, and often as CEOs of new Venture Kick startups. They contribute experience, capital, and courage to the next generation, creating a cycle of sustainable impact.

Venture Kick is an initiative of the charitable Kick Foundation with measurable impact – for startups, innovation, and Switzerland. What makes Venture Kick a success is a shared goal of kicking forward Swiss innovation for the benefit of Switzerland's economy and society. Join us in scaling the Venture Kick program with its great track record and leverage.

In the name of the Venture Kick board, we would like to thank everyone for their great support.

P. Vonmont *S. Avedik*

Dr. Pascale Vonmont
Strategy Board, Venture Kick
Gebert RUF Stiftung

Dr. Suzanne Avedik
Strategy Board, Venture Kick
Ernst Göhner Stiftung

HIGHLIGHTS 2025

The year 2025 marks a renewed upswing in the startup ecosystem, with investment rounds gaining momentum again despite ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties. In Switzerland, the rebound is clearly visible as funding activity rises. Amid this positive shift, our Kickers continue to excel – driving groundbreaking innovations, securing substantial new investment, forging high-impact partnerships, and earning widespread recognition through prestigious awards.



To read more about the investments our Kickers attracted in 2025, scan the QR-code here, or consult: www.venturekick.ch/newsroom

RAISING ROUNDS OF CHF 12+ MILLION



CLIMEWORKS (CHF 129.5M)

Climeworks, the global pioneer in Direct Air Capture (DAC) technology and a leading provider of holistic carbon removal portfolios, has secured USD 162 million in additional equity funding – marking the largest carbon removal investment worldwide so far in 2025. This latest investment highlights growing confidence in Climeworks' approach to carbon removal and advances its total funding beyond USD 1 billion.



DISTALMOTION (CHF 120M)

Distalmotion has secured USD 150 million in a Series G financing round to expand its footprint across the United States. The new funding, led by Revival Healthcare Capital and supported by existing investors, will accelerate the commercial adoption of DEXTER, particularly in the rapidly growing Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) market, expand DEXTER's presence in the US, and support ongoing clinical and product development initiatives.



NEURAL CONCEPT (CHF 79.3M)

Neural Concept has secured USD 100 million in a Series C funding round as demand accelerates for enterprise AI solutions that deliver measurable impact in industrial environments. The company is positioning itself to scale its AI-native engineering platform globally, as engineering teams increasingly move beyond experimentation toward full deployment across core product development workflows.



ROOMPRICEGENIE (CHF 60M)

RoomPriceGenie, a provider of revenue management systems (RMS) for independent hotels and groups, has secured a USD 75 million investment from Five Elms Capital. The funding will support the company's international expansion and further development of its platform. The ICT company has built a global presence, with nearly 100 employees and 3,000 hotel clients in 65 countries.



HAYA THERAPEUTICS (CHF 52M)

The biotech company HAYA Therapeutics has raised USD 65 million in Series A funding to accelerate the clinical development of its RNA-guided therapeutics platform. The investment supports the company's lead candidate, HTX-001, to treat heart failure, and extends to expanding its pipeline across other chronic and age-related diseases. HAYA's platform targets the non-coding DNA that governs gene expression.



ONWARD MEDICAL (CHF 47.5M)

Headquartered in the Netherlands, ONWARD Medical develops therapies to restore movement and function in people with spinal cord injuries, and has raised EUR 50.85 million in gross proceeds through a private placement. The funding will strengthen the company's financial position, support product development, and accelerate commercialization activities for its external neurostimulation device, the ARC-EX System.



CORINTIS (CHF 39.3M)

Corintis specializing in advanced chip cooling technology, secured USD 24 million in September and has raised an additional USD 25 million in funding, led by Applied Digital. This brings the company's total capital raised to about USD 58 million. The investment reflects growing market pressure to manage the rising heat and energy demands of next-generation AI hardware. NVIDIA's challenge.



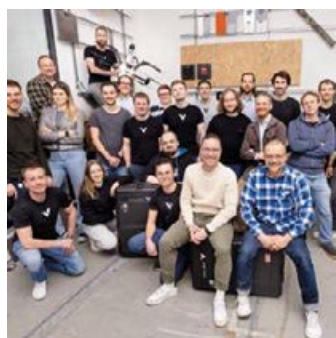
DEEPJUDGE (CHF 33.6M)

DeepJudge, ranked third at the latest Top100 Swiss Startup Award, has raised USD 42 million in Series A funding to redefine how law firms manage and retrieve knowledge. Founded by former Google search engineers with PhDs in AI from ETH Zurich, DeepJudge has developed an AI platform tailored for the legal sector's most complex data challenges. The funding will allow DeepJudge to expand its platform and scale its collaborations with global law firms.



BEEKEEPER (CHF 28M)

The Zurich- and Berlin-based provider of digital tools for frontline teams has secured USD 35 million in growth and working capital financing from HSBC Innovation Banking UK. The new investment will support the company's continued expansion. Its mobile-first platform helps organizations digitize paper-based processes, facilitate real-time communication, and improve engagement, productivity, and safety for frontline workers.



VOLIRO (CHF 18.5M)

The company, developing aerial robots for industrial inspections, has raised a total of USD 23 million following an extension of its Series A round, led by Cherry Ventures, with noa and debt facility from UBS. With this funding, the robotics startup aims to scale its operations and expand its global reach in the infrastructure and energy sectors. Voliro currently serves over 40 customers across 17 countries and conducts more than 100 inspections each month.



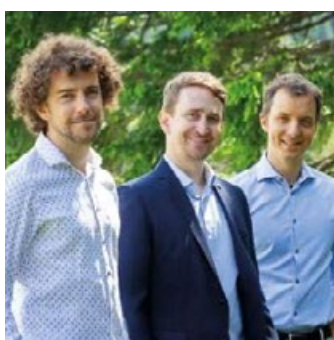
DEPOLY (CHF 18.5M)

DePoly, winner of the 2024 Top100 Swiss Startup Award, has raised USD 23 million to launch a 500-ton-per-year recycling showcase plant in Monthey, Switzerland. Set to open this summer, the facility will demonstrate DePoly's proprietary technology that transforms PET and polyester waste into virgin-quality raw materials, without relying on fossil fuels. DePoly plans to open its first commercial-scale plant by 2027.



BIOVERSYS (CHF 14M)

Wellcome has allocated SGD 22 million (approximately CHF 14 million) to strengthen the network and enable this first sponsor-driven trial in collaboration with BioVersys. With this support, BioVersys will advance its lead anti-infective candidate BV100 into Phase 2b clinical development. The study will be conducted through the ADVANCE-ID clinical trial network, with the first patient expected to be dosed in the first half of 2026.



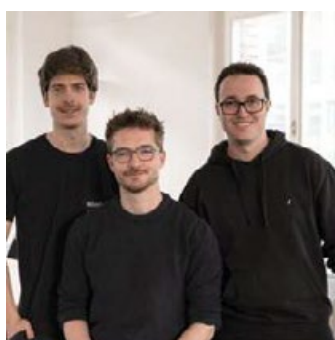
BLOOM BIORENEWABLES (CHF 13M)

Bloom Biorenewables has secured CHF 13 million in Series A funding to advance its Aldehyde-Assisted Fractionation (AAF) technology, a process that allows for the full utilization of plant biomass for high-value chemicals and materials. The investment will support the scaling of Bloom's technology and the development of commercial-scale units. Bloom Biorenewables is positioned to scale its technology and accelerate market adoption.



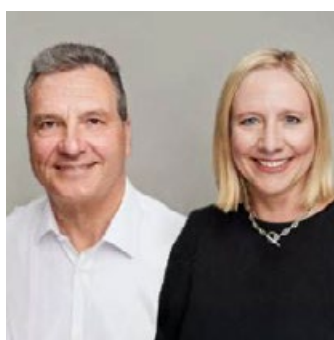
OXYLE (CHF 12.8M)

PFAS – hazardous "forever chemicals" found in everything from firefighting foam to non-stick cookware – have posed severe health and environmental risks. Swiss startup Oxyle has developed a state-of-the-art technology that destroys them permanently. Now, backed by a USD 16 million funding round, the company is set to scale its solution and address a growing regulatory push for effective water treatment.



MIMIC ROBOTIC (CHF 12.8M)

The robotics startup has raised USD 16 million to deploy advanced physical AI for robots capable of performing complex, dexterous tasks across manufacturing and logistics. With this move, the Zurich-based company positions itself as a leading European player in the race toward general-purpose robotics. Mimic has a 25-person team and has received support from Switzerland's federal innovation agency and the AWS Generative AI Accelerator.



VIROMETIX (CHF 12M)

Virometix, a biotechnology company developing fully synthetic vaccines designed to generate targeted immune responses against infectious diseases and cancer, has raised USD 15 million in a financing round backed by existing shareholders. The new capital will enable the company to advance the clinical development of its lead vaccine candidate, V-212, a serotype-independent pneumococcal vaccine currently in Phase I clinical evaluation.

RAISING ROUNDS OF CHF 3 MILLION TO 12 MILLION



COMPHYA (CHF 11.85M)

Comphy, a leader in medical technology, successfully closed the first tranche of its Series A1 funding round, raising CHF 4.35 million in February and completed it in July with CHF 7.5 million to advance erectile dysfunction therapy.



FENX (CHF 8.2M)

The ETHZ spin-off is scaling up its mineral foam technology for building insulation after raising CHF 8.2 million in Series A funding. The capital will help industrialize production, grow partnerships, and develop new applications for its panels.



FLYBOTIX (CHF 8M)

The global robotics company specializing in drone-based solutions for confined-space inspections, raised close to USD 10 million in a Series A extension round. The company improves inspection safety and efficiency with advanced drones and software.



ASTRA THERAPEUTICS (CHF 7.75M)

ASTRA Therapeutics developing precision treatments for parasitic diseases, raised CHF 7.75 million in seed funding. The financing will support the advancement of the company's ParaX® platform and accelerate the development of its lead drug candidate.



CREAL (CHF 7.16M)

Swiss startup CREAL raised USD 8.9 million in an equity funding round led by Zeiss to support the company's continued push to commercialize its proprietary light field display technology in the vision care and augmented reality (AR) sectors.



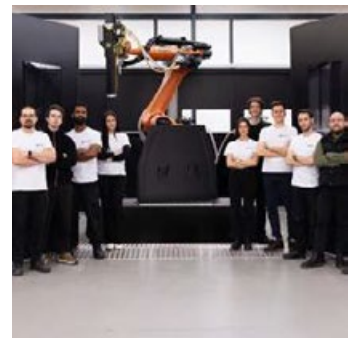
POSITRIGO (CHF 7M)

Positrigo raised CHF 7 million to accelerate production of its brain imaging device. The financing round boosts manufacturing and enhances its commercial rollout of its NeuroLF system in the US and Europe, supporting the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in particular.



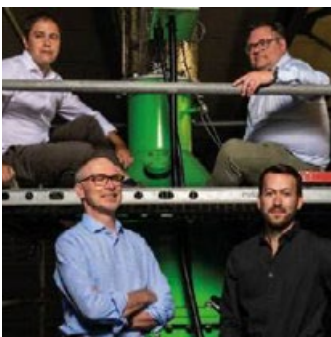
LARGO.AI (CHF 6M)

Largo.ai, an AI analytics platform for the film, TV, and advertising industries, secured USD 7.5 million in Series A funding. Sylvester Stallone is a new investor as the company expands its core business for 600+ clients, including major Hollywood studios.



SAEKI (CHF 5.4M)

The engineering startup raised USD 6.7 million to address inefficiencies caused by fragmented supply chains and labor intensive manufacturing. The funding will be used to advance its digital manufacturing approach, increasing efficiency and enabling more streamlined operations.



DAPHNE TECHNOLOGIES (CHF 4.8M)

Daphne Technology, with Williams, received USD 6 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to support their project scaling innovative technologies to reduce methane emissions, addressing a critical environmental challenge.



NUNU.AI (CHF 4.8M)

nunu.ai secured USD 6 million to expand its AI agents, called "Unembodied Minds", which automate video game testing. Since launch, several game studios have integrated these agents to run continuous, automated tests.



VOLTIRIS (CHF 4.8M)

Voltiris, a leader in solar greenhouse solutions, has raised CHF 4.8 million in seed funding to advance electrification and tap into the USD 60 billion greenhouse market, thus promoting sustainable agriculture and energy solutions.



BTRY (CHF 4.6M)

BTRY raised USD 5.7 million to scale production of its ultra-thin solid-state batteries. The company develops compact, fast-charging, and temperature-resistant cells designed for connected labels, sensors, and wearables.



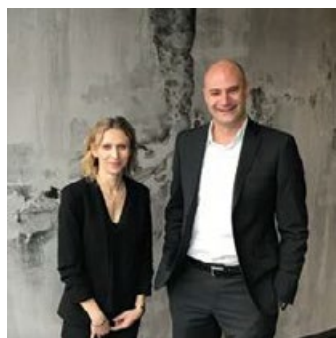
HEMOSTOD (CHF 4.3M)

The Swiss developer of donor-free blood platelets, raised CHF 4.3 million to accelerate pre-IND development and launch a commercial-scale pilot line, demonstrating the scalability of its platelet manufacturing technology from lab to industry.



ODNE (CHF 4.2M)

Odne, transforming endodontic care, raised USD 5.1 million in a Series A1 extension led by ZEISS Ventures. Existing investors, employees, and private dental investors also participated. The funds will support Odne's US market expansion.



ADIPOSS (CHF 4M)

AdiPOSS raised CHF 4 million in a Series A round to advance clinical development of its brown fat imaging product for early cancer treatment assessment. The funds will support a proof-of-principle trial, which subjects were dosed in June 2025.



FORGIS (CHF3.6M)

The ICT startup raised USD 4.5 million in a pre-seed funding round. The funding will accelerate the development of Forgis' AI-powered software platform, designed to connect and optimize machines and production lines for smarter, more efficient factories.



TETHYS ROBOTICS (CHF 3.3M)

The ETHZ spin-off Tethys Robotics is modernizing underwater operations once reliant on human divers. The startup has raised EUR 3.5 million in pre-seed funding to accelerate its transition from pilot projects to commercial deployment across Europe.



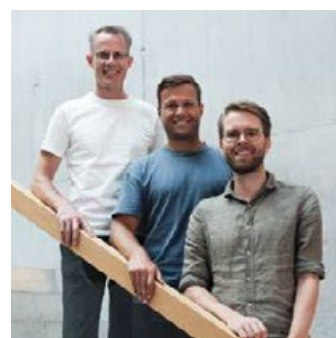
NAUTICA TECHNOLOGIES (CHF 3.2M)

The startup raised USD 4 million to commercialize its autonomous underwater robots for preventing marine biofouling. The robots provide continuous hull cleaning and inspection, helping the shipping industry reduce fuel costs, emissions, and regulatory risk.



RTDT LABORATORIES (CHF 3.2M)

The Zurich-based startup raised USD 4 million in a pre-seed round to scale its wind energy optimization technology. The funding will accelerate growth and strengthen RTDT's role in modernizing wind energy infrastructure and improving renewable energy efficiency.



VIBOO (CHF 3.1M)

The Swiss building automation company raised EUR 3.3 million to support expansion in Germany. Its platform delivers measurable energy savings and aids in decarbonizing existing buildings amid growing demand from the new Building Energy Act (GEG).



AKINA (CHF 2.8M)

AI healthcare startup Akina raised CHF 2.8 million to expand its hybrid digital physiotherapy platform. Since its 2024 launch, it has delivered thousands of AI-assisted therapy sessions, with plans to grow in Switzerland and across Europe.



SCANVIO (CHF 2.7M)

Scanvio raised an oversubscribed USD 3.4 million seed round to advance its diagnostic tool for underdiagnosed conditions. The funds will enhance its AI-based ultrasound assistant for earlier, more accurate endometriosis diagnosis.



NEOLOGY HYDROGEN (CHF 2.5M)

The startup is advancing toward commercializing its zero-emission energy solutions, planning to launch 50 kW Ammonia Power Generator units by late 2026 to early 2027. The aim is to replace diesel-powered machinery in ports or in agriculture.



BAXIVA (CHF 2.4M)

Schlieren-based biotech and ETHZ spin-off Baxiva received USD 3 million from CARB-X to develop a multivalent glycoconjugate vaccine against E. coli infections. The company's approach aims to protect against multiple strains of the pathogen.

RAISING ROUNDS BELOW CHF 3 MILLION



PERIVISION (CHF 2.4M)

The Medtech company PeriVision has secured USD 3 million in seed funding to expand its platform with new VR-based tests for retinal diseases, advanced AI insights, and integrations designed to deliver a complete solution for eye clinics, optometry practices, and biopharma partners.



AICA (CHF 2.35M)

AICA secured a strategic investment led by Momenta. The funding will support AICA's global expansion and strengthen its AI-driven automation capabilities. Existing investors Spicehaus, HTGF, and Schaeffler, along with Zürcher Kantonalbank, participated, reaffirming their confidence in the company.



RHOVICA NEUROIMAGING (CHF 2.3M)

The MedTech startup raised CHF 2.3 million in a financing round led by M2care, with participation from Kickfund, Valuemaker, and other business angels. The funding will accelerate the development of SoNav, Rhovica's bedside navigation system for extraventricular drainage (EVD) catheters.



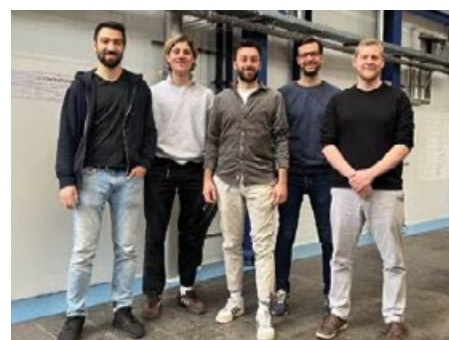
ASKEARTH (CHF 2.2M)

askEarth, specializing in geospatial intelligence, has closed an oversubscribed seed funding round of USD 2.85 million. The fresh capital will support the expansion and commercialization of its innovative agentic AI platform designed to transform satellite data into actionable insights for enterprise users.



DPHI SPACE (CHF 2.1M)

The EPFL spin-off engineering startup secured a CHF 2.1 million pre-seed funding round to advance its shared satellite platform for hosted payloads. Its innovation simplifies and reduces the cost of access to space. The new investment will support the launch of its first Clustergate platform into orbit.



A-METAL (CHF 2.1M)

a-metal raised CHF 2.1 million to bring its metal 3D printing system to market. It will also support industrializing the technology, expanding the team, and preparing for scalable production, making metal 3D printing accessible to more users, from industrial teams to medical applications.

- **Soverly** secured CHF 2M to bring usable sovereignty to every smartphone.
- **Oncobit** obtained CHF 1.9M to advance next-gen cancer monitoring.
- **Sonix** landed CHF 1.8M to boost growth in competitive gaming.
- **Grensol** garnered CHF 1.8M to improve hard-to-treat waste recycling
- **Riverkin** acquired CHF 1.7M to expand pilots in key watersheds.
- **CellX Biosolutions** collected CHF 1.7M to advance PFAS degradation.
- **Ionic Wind** raised CHF 1.6M to industrialize solid-state cooling technology.
- **DuraMon** secured CHF 1.6M to scale its operations.
- **Medyria** raised CHF 1.5M to progress PyCath and grow globally.
- **EBAMed** received CHF 1.5M to advance cardiac-care solutions.
- **Autonomyo** obtained CHF 1.3M to scale safe home rehabilitation.
- **qCella** secured CHF 1.3M to scale energy-efficient heating tech.
- **Borobotics** raised CHF 1.3M to accelerate geothermal drilling systems.
- **DigeHealth** raised CHF 1.25M for gastrointestinal health solutions.
- **InkVivo Technologies** secured CHF 1.1M to advance its polymer drug-delivery platform.
- **MetaLead** received CHF 1M to progress treatment for Wilson's disease.
- **KYLYS Aesthetics** raised CHF 1M to develop next-gen hyaluronic acid devices.
- **Reshape Systems** obtained CHF 800K to expand AI-based risk analysis.
- **SolidWatts** secured CHF 796K to scale clean industrial heating.
- **Jaipur Robotics** secured CHF 700K to enhance AI-driven waste management.

UNDISCLOSED FUNDING AMOUNTS

- **K2 Photonics** secured seed funding to simplify frequency comb technology for global industries.
- **Exnaton** closed Series A funding to scale its AI-driven platform for the new energy era.
- **Anevo** raised pre-seed round to automate busy work in real estate.

Check more fundraising news on
www.venturekick.ch/newsroom



IPOS, MERGERS, AND ACQUISITIONS



BIOVERSYS' IPO

BioVersys, a Basel-based biotech company focused on combating multidrug-resistant bacteria, is now publicly listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. Valued at CHF 213 million, the company raised CHF 90 million by offering over 2.2 million shares at CHF 36 each, demonstrating strong investor support for its work.



ARARIS BIOTECH ACQUIRED BY TAIHO PHARMACEUTICAL

The acquisition follows a research collaboration between the two companies that began in November 2023. Under the terms of the agreement, Taiho will pay USD 400 million at closing, with the potential for additional milestone payments of up to USD 740 million, as the company reaches unicorn status.



BEEKEEPER ACQUIRED BY LUMAPPS

Beekeeper has been acquired by LumApps in a transaction backed by Bridgepoint, forming a combined company valued at over USD 1 billion and launching what is described as the first AI-powered Employee Hub for both frontline and desk-based workers. The combined company will serve more than 7 million users across 2,000 clients.



NOVACCESS' DIVISION ACQUIRED BY TRIDONIC

Novaccess has entered a new chapter with the acquisition of its NovaLight smart lighting division by Tridonic, the Austrian specialist in professional lighting control systems. Since August 2025, the NovaLight team and its cloud-based technology have been operating under Tridonic, which has also taken over the associated IP rights and begun offering the solutions directly to the market.



OBARIS ACQUIRED BY JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Johnson & Johnson has acquired OBaris, an ETHZ spin-off developing a novel drug delivery platform. With its OctoPatch® technology, OBaris aims to make oral administration possible for therapies that are usually limited to injections. As part of Johnson & Johnson, the platform will be advanced within a global healthcare ecosystem.



PI IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES ACQUIRED BY ZEISS

Pi Imaging Technologies, developing SPAD-based imaging solutions, has been acquired by Carl Zeiss Microscopy. Known for launching the first camera built on single-photon avalanche diode (SPAD) technology, Pi Imaging will now contribute its innovations to Zeiss's microscopy systems, with the aim of advancing imaging performance in life sciences and related fields.



RETINAI ACQUIRED BY ESSLORLUXOTTICA

EssilorLuxottica has acquired RetinAI, a med-tech company that uses AI to analyze retinal images and data. The acquisition puts RetinAI's technology at the heart of the group's strategy, helping doctors detect eye diseases faster and make more informed decisions for patient care.

INDUSTRY DEALS

- **BioVersys** and Shionogi enter into global research collaboration for broad-spectrum non-tuberculosis mycobacteria clinical candidate.
- **Bloom Biorenewables** partners with Hexion to pioneer renewable adhesive technology.
- **CASUS** exits CASUS Create in LAWLIFT deal.
- **Climeworks** partners with TikTok and Two Drifters Distillery to remove 6,000 tons of CO₂.
- **CompPair** and SBB partner to increase durability and sustainability of InterCity trains.
- **Composite Recycling** and Owens Corning partner to advance circular economy for composite waste. Composite Recycling is also at the core of a circular nautical industry by leading a new initiative in Western France.
- **Cosaic** and Ingredion announce strategic partnership to redefine the future of ingredient innovation.
- **Inverto Earth** joins forces with Delta Blue Carbon to advance Blue Carbon monitoring standards
- **InSphero** acquires DOPPL SA for 3D in vitro drug models.
- **Largo.ai** has acquired QuMind, a London-based company, setting a new standard for data accuracy and usability.
- **SONIX** acquires RUSH Entertainment's tournament tech to launch all-in-one esports platform.
- **Technix** acquires French company Videtics, laying the foundation for a sovereign European group.

AWARDS & WORLD PREMIERE



4 VENTURE KICKERS AMONG THE DE VIGIER AWARD WINNERS 2025

CellX Biosolutions, Clee Medical, PAVE Space, and Visienco have been awarded CHF 120,000 each at the W.A. de Vigier Stiftung Award, spotlighting Switzerland's most promising entrepreneurs.



ARARIS BIOTECH WON THE STRÜNGMANN AWARD 2025

The award supports outstanding entrepreneurial and scientific achievements in the life sciences industry. Araris Biotech won the EUR 100,000 cash prize to help establish a new generation of targeted cancer therapies.



CLIMEWORKS AND PLANTED RANKED IN THE TOP 5 OF TIME WORLD'S TOP GREENTECH 2025

Rankings were based on positive impact, financial strength, and innovation. Switzerland stands out with two Kickers in the top five: Climeworks at number 2 and Planted Foods at number 5.



DEEPJUDGE FOUNDER PAULINA GRNAROVA IS YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AT SEF. WOMENAWARD

Paulina was honored for her AI startup that revolutionizes legal search for law firms, building on her background from North Macedonia, ETH Zurich, and Google.



GREN SOL WON SOLOTHURN'S SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION AWARD 2025

The award recognizes Solothurn companies reducing greenhouse gas emissions or promoting climate protection and sustainability. Grensol won this prestigious award in 2025.



HEROSUPPORT'S CEO, GIOVANNA DI PASQUALE, WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE 'FEMALE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR' 2025

Giovanna Dipasquale won Female Innovator of the Year for her impact through HeroSupport's personalized 3D-printed breast cancer therapy supports.



NANOFLEX ROBOTICS WON THE 2025 ZÜRCHER KANTONALBANK PIONIERPREIS TECHNOPARK

Nanoflex Robotics' groundbreaking telerobotic technology is set to transform the future of endovascular interventions. The startup also received the Audience Award on that same evening.



NOVOVIZ LAUNCHED THE FIRST EVER SINGLE-PHOTON AVALANCHE (SPAD) CAMERA INTO SPACE

The launch is more than a technological achievement; it is a testament to the robustness and reliability of NovoViz's SPAD technology.



NU GLASS TAKES THE EY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR – SCALE-UP LEADERS AWARD AND WON THE 2025 PRIX DE L'INNOVATION DE LA RÉGION DE NYON

nu glass is building a new global leader making glass transparent to mobile waves – and revolutionizing indoor connectivity.



TRILLIOME WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE "FOOD AS MEDICINE" FROM THE EIT FOOD ACCELERATOR NETWORK

The milestone follows a strong year with ARDD and Probiota Americas awards recognizing its AI-driven gut bioactives made from upcycled plant waste.



VENTURE KICK RANKED THE #1 MOST ACTIVE "DEBT INVESTOR PROVIDER" IN EUROPE FOR Q1 2025 BY STIFTED

A recognition for Venture Kick impact: 1,121 projects supported with CHF 80 million since our launch in 2007, and fully supported by a private consortium.



SWISSTO12 NOMINATED FOR THE 2024 SATELLITE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

CEO and Founder Emile de Rijk has been nominated for the prestigious Satellite Executive of the Year award by Via Satellite. Emile is recognised in this year's nominations list alongside executives from the industry.

A KICKERS' WORLD

THE WEB SERIES SHOWCASING THE FOUNDERS IN THEIR NATURAL SETTING.



Step inside the offices and labs of the Venture Kick winners to discover their innovations and the global challenges they're tackling

Scan the QR-code to watch their interview.

AZURE CELL THERAPIES

REGENERATING NEURONS TO DEFEAT PARKINSON'S DISEASE



BIOSCIBEX

TRANSFORMING BIOLOGICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT



dEEGtal

EMPOWERING EPILEPSY DIAGNOSIS



INKOCELL

ADVANCING NEXT-GENERATION NATURAL KILLERS (NK) CELL THER-



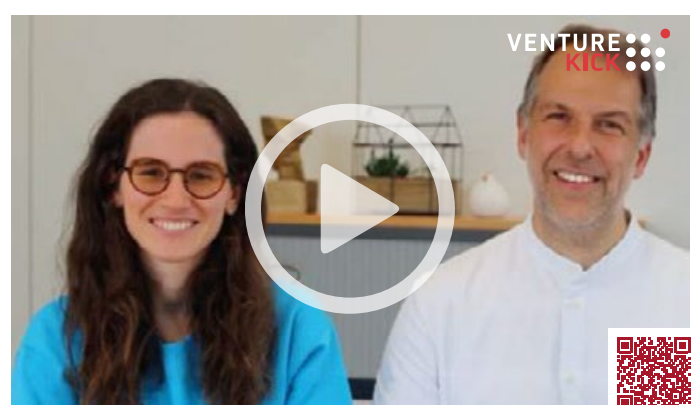
ORTHOSENS

MAKING IMPLANTS TALK FOR CONTINUOUS ORTHOPEDIC RECOVERY



VISIENCO


AI-POWERED AUTOMATED ORGANOID SORTING TECHNOLOGY




66 VENTURE KICKERS

10 IN TOP10


1 CORINTIS
 → www.corintis.com
 Enabling the computing of tomorrow with in-chip cooling.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.09.21




6 TETHYS ROBOTICS
 → www.tethys-robotics.ch
 Enabling search and inspection missions in all waters.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.01.23




2 DEPOLY
 → www.depoly.com
 Closing the loop on PET plastic recycling.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.08.19




7 BTRY
 → www.btry.ch
 A solid-state battery that can be charged in one minute.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 03.10.23




3 DEEPJUDGE
 → www.deepjudge.ai
 AI-powered legal research and document analysis for faster, smarter decision-making.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.11.20




8 TUNE INSIGHT
 → www.tuneinsight.com
 Data collaborations with federated confidential computing.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.06.21



4 VOLTIRIS
 → www.voltiris.com
 Green Energy-as-a-Service for greenhouse growers.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.10.21




9 SEPRIFY
 → www.seprify.com
 Sustainable cellulose-based white pigment for applications from food to furniture.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.09.22



5 BLOOM BIORENEWABLES
 → www.bloombiorenewables.com
 Making biomass a true alternative to petroleum.
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10 NANOFLEX ROBOTICS
 → www.nanoflexrobotics.com
 Next-generation telerobotic solutions for critical endovascular interventions.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.01.22



11 DPHI SPACE
 → www.dphispace.com
 Streamlining space access via satellite ridesharing.
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27 TESTMATE HEALTH
 → www.testmatehealth.com
 Next generation of low-cost tests, starting with sexual health & women's health.
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39 LIGHTIUM
 → www.lightium.com
 Building the future of data infrastructure.
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14 LIMULA
 → www.limula.ch
 Unified platform supporting cell and gene therapy manufacturing across scales.
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28 ROBOA
 → www.roboa.ch
 Safely entering confined spaces with robots.
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40 EMISSION
 → www.emission.io
 Tracking the environmental impact of electricity.
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16 ENANTIOS
 → www.enantios.com
 Cutting-edge solutions to analyze chiral molecules and biologics.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.01.23

29 ENERDRAPE
 → www.enerdrape.com
 Turning underground environments into renewable heat sources.
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41 AVELO
 → www.avelolife.com
 Breath collector for improved pneumonia diagnosis.
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17 OXYLE
 → www.oxy.ch
 Permanently eliminating the most challenging PFAS from your wastewater.
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 The platform for renewable energy and sustainable lifestyles.
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43 LIBREC
 → www.librec.com
 Recycling lithium-ion batteries from e-mobility.
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20 ASCENTO
 → www.ascento.ai
 Autonomous outdoor security patrolling.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.11.22

34 COMPPAIR TECHNOLOGIES
 → www.comppair.ch
 Healable and sustainable composites to improve circularity.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.02.19

44 FLINK ROBOTICS
 → www.flink.so
 Intelligent software solutions for material handling robots.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.11.23

21 ADIPOSS
 → www.adiposs.com
 Imaging body fat for early detection of wasting in patients.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 25.06.19

37 NAUTICA TECHNOLOGIES
 → www.nauticatechnologies.com
 Swarm robotics for autonomous ship maintenance.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 13.09.22

46 VIBOO
 → www.viboo.io
 Empowering efficiency and building intelligence with a cloud platform for building operators.
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24 APHEROS
 → www.apheros.ch
 Novel metal foams to redefine cooling solutions.
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 23.08.22

38 DIVEA
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 CO₂-capturing filters for industrial emissions.
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49 DEMOSQUARE
 → www.demosquare.com
 Helping companies anticipate the future of regulation.
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- 50 NXI THERAPEUTICS**
→ www.nxitherapeutics.com
Novel therapy for autoimmunity and organ transplantation.
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- 52 INERGIO TECHNOLOGIES**
→ www.inergio.ch
Fuel-flexible fuel cells to accelerate the energy transition.
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- 53 NU GLASS**
→ www.nu.glass
Enhancing mobile coverage by making glass permeable to mobile frequencies.
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- 54 FIMMCYTE**
→ www.fimmcyte.co
First disease-modifying treatment for endometriosis.
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- 55 NEUROSOFT BIOELECTRONICS**
→ www.neurosoft-bio.com
Soft implantable electrodes for the nervous system.
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- 56 CLEEMEDICAL**
→ www.cleemedical.com
Transforming brain surgery via real-time vision and control.
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- 59 MIMIC ROBOTICS**
→ www.mimicrobotics.com
Physical AI to scale your most tedious tasks from manufacturing to logistics.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 04.06.24
- 63 OVOMIND**
→ www.ovomind.com
Revolutionizing the way you experience gaming.
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- 64 WATTANYWHERE**
→ www.wattanywhere.com
Renewable, off-grid energy available anywhere & anytime.
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- 66 NOVOVIZ**
→ www.novoviz.com
Single-photon processing detectors for computational imaging.
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- 67 EIGHTINKS**
→ www.8inks.com
Building the next generation of lithium-ion batteries.
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- 69 PERIVISION**
→ www.perivision.com
Helping eye doctors save vision with AI, VR, and the cloud.
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- 71 CELLX BIOSOLUTIONS**
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Novel bacterial solutions for industrial pollution treatment.
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- 72 METALEAD THERAPEUTICS**
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Next-generation medications to treat metal-related diseases.
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Reimagining genetic medicine through protein engineering.
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Automating wholesaler communications.
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Keeping the cell's growth engine mTORC1 in check.
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AI-assisted gynecologic ultrasound diagnostics.
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Advanced recycling to turn industrial waste into high-value resources.
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- 95 BIPED ROBOTICS**
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All-in-one navigation device for blind people.
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- 97 FLOWBONE**
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Injectable biomaterials for fast, targeted bone strengthening.
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158 SUPPORTED PROJECTS

- BIOTECH**
- ABBMIRA THERAPEUTICS** – Creus Marc, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Fine-tuning native immunity to treat cancer.
- ALP AI** – Mehra Punit, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Precise prediction of immunogenicity risks in biologics.
- ALTERBIOTIX** – Hathaway Lucy, University of Bern (UNIBE), First-in-class therapeutics targeting pneumococcal disease.
- AZURECELL** – Fares Bilal, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Regenerating neurons to fight Parkinson's disease.
- BAIO** – Igashov Iliia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Streamlining early-stage drug discovery processes.
- BASIQL** – Hauser David, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Multivalent vaccines for global viral protection.
- BAXIVA** – Greter Giorgia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation glycoconjugate vaccines against *E. coli*.
- BEMARROW** – Perver Dilara, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Humanized models for advanced blood cancer therapies.
- BIODELPHIS THERAPEUTICS** – Petruzzella Aaron, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), A new generation of targeted drugs for cancer and beyond.
- BIONERIS** – El Chazli Marwan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), The world's fastest bacterial contamination detection tool.
- BIOSCIBEX** – Albiets Chloé, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Revolutionizing cell culture with the Swingo bioreactor.
- CHROMNIL** – Lehmann Daniel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A ready to use, low-cost instrument for product screening.
- CRIA TECHNOLOGIES** – Palmieri Vittorio, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Ultra-low temperature sustainable and portable solutions.
- ELDIAN BIOMED** – Bordon Gregor, University of Bern (UNIBE), Injectable microcushions for long-term joint restoration.
- EVIS BIOSCIENCE** – Montanari Elita, University of Zurich (UZH), Next-generation non-viral gene delivery systems.
- GENOROBOTICS** – Adam Nicolas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Field-deployable DNA kit for species identification.
- GLIOCART** – Willmann Dieter, University of Basel (UNIBAS), CAR-T cell therapy targeting glioblastoma.
- HEPHAISTOS** – Neumann Jannik, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Creating novel, efficient, and sustainable biocatalysts.
- IMMITRA BIO** – Taheri Amir, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Activating backup genes to treat genetic diseases.
- INKOCELL THERAPEUTICS** – Girardin Mathieu, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Developing the next generation of cell-based therapies.
- INNUNITY THERAPEUTICS** – Katsoulas Antonios, University of Zurich (UZH), Targeting innate immunity to treat MS-related disability.
- LABLI AUTOMATION** – Balula Samuel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Optical technologies for automated biology research.
- LATENTFUSION.AI** – Hagmann Elias, University of Zurich (UZH), AI-guided optimization of biologics.
- LEMNA BIO** – Houmani Moustafa, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Physics-inspired AI for biomolecule discovery and design.
- NANOZYMEX** – Sevarika Boris, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Next-generation enzyme replacement therapies.
- NIMVERTA** – Singh Amit, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation peptide solutions for bone regeneration.
- NINSUN BIOTECH** – Carré Vincent, Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV), Targeting cancer stem cells for theranostic applications.
- PURE-DEL** – Keller Michelle, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Targeting the undruggable with DNA-encoded libraries.
- REMUUN** – Chahwan Richard, University of Zurich (UZH), On-demand monoclonal antibody development.
- SANTELLA** – Stöckli Sabrina, University of Bern (UNIBE), Sustainable vaccines for better animal health.
- STATCOVERY** – Meledin Roman, University of Zurich (UZH), Accelerating drug discovery with deep live-cell insights.
- TASTEOMICS** – Batora Daniel, University of Bern (UNIBE), Revolutionizing nutrition through taste science.
- TRILLIOME** – Guye Patrick, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Extending healthspan with microbiome nutraceuticals.
- TUUS SOLUTION LABS** – Caldara Tiziano, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Controlled-release hydrogel for steady carb delivery.
- UNOMR** – Schlotter Til, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Single biomolecule sensors for medical research.
- VERSARYS BIOSCIENCE** – Schwyter Lukas, University of Zurich (UZH), Customizable co-culture for bacterial-cell studies.
- CLEANTECH**
- CIRCELEC** – Bourely James, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Manufacturing recyclable and compostable circuit boards.
- DELTASPARK** – Bondaz Luc, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Turning CO₂ into valuable opportunities.
- FORTYFOUR** – Müller Henry Willem, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Boosting crop yields with sustainable CO₂ capture.
- GRENAT** – Scheidegger Josué, Hautes école vaudoises, Optical sorting for alternative crops and small farms.
- IRON ENERGY** – Heiniger Samuel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Affordable and sustainable energy storage using iron oxide.
- JAIPUR ROBOTICS** – Zamboni Ermes, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Building the leading operating system for waste recognition.
- LIGHTSEEDS** – Perret Laure-Emmanuelle, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Creating ultra-light, unbreakable solar panels.
- MCLCL AG (KELVA SYSTEMS)** – Lisiakova Maria, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Reliable, low-cost thermal energy storage technology.
- PAWER SOLUTIONS** – Babou Yacine, University of Zurich (UZH), Plasma-activated water for sustainable agriculture.
- SENDMEBAG** – Kohler Joshua, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Reusable e-commerce packaging to reduce CO₂ and waste.
- SIXTEEN44** – Dumas Nelson, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Direct air capture of methane using proven technology.
- STORRA DYNAMICS** – Pezzulli Edoardo, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Risk management and optimisation for CO₂ storage.
- SURFACE CLEANTECH** – McConnell Saoirse Kathryn, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Enabling affordable compostable packaging solutions.
- VERRETEX** – Anderson Mitchell, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Creating circular glass fiber textiles.
- WINDUCTION** – Bhuka Sonam, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Inductive charging solutions for electric vehicles.
- ELECTRONICS, MECHANICS**
- AITHON ROBOTICS** – Dautzenberg Roman, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Aerial access solutions for complex, high-altitude tasks.
- ASKALON INDUSTRIES** – Camy Severin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), AI-powered acoustic drone detection.
- AUGETIK** – Ebrahimi Aliakbar, PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Modular muon detectors with AI for precise imaging.
- AVIENTUS** – Aicher Johannes, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Autonomous drone-based logistics systems.
- CALMEA** – Breuss Alexander, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Adaptive robotic bed to enhance sleep quality.
- CDDS** – Bertschi Christoph, University of St. Gallen (HSG), Autonomous interceptor drones for threat neutralization.
- CYCLOWATT** – Luder Victor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation cycling power meter for amateurs.
- EMBODIED AI** – Stella Francesco, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Developing the first soft commercial robot.
- EUREKA** – Zhang Siyi, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), High-quality, affordable microscopes for everyday users.
- FIREDRONE** – Wiesemüller Fabian, EMPA, Temperature-resilient drones for firefighting operations.
- IMPACT.BUILD** – Vasey Lauren, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Robotic processes for a circular build environment.
- LIGHTLINK INSTRUMENTS** – Arun Ajay, EMPA, Hyperspectral cameras for accurate color analysis.
- MAUS ROBOTICS** – Hennig Robert, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Robotic vending machines preparing fresh crêpes on demand.
- MIMIC ROBOTICS** – Gravert Stephan-Daniel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Autonomous robots for unstructured environments.
- MOSAIC SOC** – Di Mauro Alfio, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Developing cutting-edge low-power AI chips.
- QENDRA** – Stadler Martin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Advanced control systems for quantum computing.
- RAVEN ROBOTICS** – Erünsal Izzet Kagan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Fully automated inspection solutions for workplace safety.
- ROBOA** – Kübler Alexander, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Safe exploration of confined spaces using robots.
- SUBATRON** – Baumann Samira, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation wireless underwater communication.
- UNDER INDUSTRIES** – Valli Eugenio, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Micro tunnel boring robot for underground infrastructure.
- ICT**
- APRENDO** – Winder Georg, Professional development platform for digital skills.
- ARKLEM AI** – Marcaillou Clémence, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Enabling actuaries to build accurate risk scores.
- AXY** – Patel Nisheet, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Building the future of scientific collaboration.
- BEWY** – Serratore Luca, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI-powered, tech-driven property management services.
- BINABIK.AI** – Peña Queraltal Jorge, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), The first modular cognitive layer for robots.
- CAREWELL** – Meylan Josselin, University of Geneva (UNIGE), A seamless digital healthcare marketplace.
- CHESSLINE AI** – Rau Stefan, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), AI-powered training platform for strategic games.
- DERISC** – Casiraghi Giona, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI-powered risk analytics for pharma supply chains.

DIPLOTOOLS – Crettol Jerome, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Purpose-built AI tools for diplomacy and policy.

FAINITE – Donzelli Alex, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Speeding up physics simulations and design iterations.

FILMIUM – Hunziker Dodo, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Unbiased discovery engine for streaming content.

FLATABLE – Rawfal Safras, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Smart roommate and shared flat matching platform.

FLYCATCHER – Galli Lorenzo, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), Safer, more reliable, cost-effective AI-driven inspections.

FORENSWISS – Beudet-Labrecque Olivier, HE-Arc (BE-JU-NE), AI solutions to fight online crime.

FORGIS AG (XELERIT) – Martelli Federico, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Faster industrial robot programming using AI agents.

GONEON – Eder Raphael, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Instant infrastructure planning with AI agents.

HAICKER – Dourassov Philippe, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), AI pentester to scan vulnerabilities in codebases.

HUMBRELA – Zaidi Semchs, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), AI-powered app for managing insurance policies.

INFINITYGEN – Dominici Gabriele, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Industrial-grade image generation software.

JOSEPHA – Gitterle Josef, University of St.Gallen (HSG), AI-powered price comparison for online shoppers.

LABDEEP – Sängler Catharina, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Unlocking hidden data in life-science R&D.

LEARNINGLEVELS – Marti Nils, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) Gamified learning platform for schools.

LOBBY – Abbrederis Romy, AI agents for hotel operations.

MELIOR – Nouvellon Menelik, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Personalized AI museum guide that adapts to each visitor.

MENTIS – Lalic Jelena, Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), Agentic platform for next-generation silicon design.

NARRAE – Esparsa Pierre, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), The first AI Film interface for teams and AI Agents.

NUREO – Biedermann Manuel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation 3D design tools for engineers.

OOVIE STUDIOS – Casagrande Giulio, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Interactive AI films reacting to musicians in real time.

PAPERCHECK – Zumbühl Yves, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), AI-powered proofreading for scientific papers.

PERMITREE – Runets Hanna, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Automating work permit applications with AI.

PIN SPORT APP – Oti-Amoako Pearl, University of Zurich (UZH), All-in-one platform for sports event success.

RESHAPE SYSTEMS – Apollonio Andrea, Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), Enhanced risk analysis for complex systems using GenAI.

ROOFLESS LABS (K4MERA) – Juvet Maikor, University of St. Gallen (HSG), Connecting creators and 3D photography.

SHOOTIFY LABS – Ambrosini Luca, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), AI-generated on-model fashion photoshoots.

SIGN.MT – Rabozzi Timothy, University of Zurich (UZH), Google Translate-like solution for sign language.

SOVERLI – Puddu Ivan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Ensuring digital sovereignty with next-gen mobile security.

SPIKEFORE – Herren Tim, University of Zurich (UZH), Risk & Compliance AI Engine.

STELLENMATCH – Osa Osaze David, Fachhochschule Graubünden, AI platform guiding the youth to their dream job.

SWISSBID – Waszkis Sebastian, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI-powered platform for smarter rentals.

TRIALHER – Antognini-Amin Hyatt, Participant-first system advancing women's health research.

UTHEREAL – Carvalho João, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Transforming expertise, IP, and operations into AI systems.

VESTIR TECHNOLOGIES – Filbin Joanne, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Bringing the in-store fitting room experience online.

WITTY MACHINES – Blomqvist Kenneth, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Simple robotic assistants for the food industry.

XELIDONI – Morais Joana, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), AI-powered inspections for scalable, smart real estate.

MATERIALS, CHEMICALS

4 SEASONS – Kazbik Yasaman, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Modular, sustainable shoes that grow with children's feet.

BILLOBA – Magne Jonathann, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), High-performance, plant-based sportswear materials.

NOXBLANC – Greger Michael, University of St. Gallen (HSG), Smart mattresses with adaptive firmness and temperature.

PEELPACK – Drigloff Slava, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Biopolymer packaging from upcycled waste streams.

MEDTECH

AI-TAILS – De Riggi Angelica, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), AI-driven health monitoring for livestock and pets.

AIRSCALE – Zubi Sohail, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Smart weight measurement for immobile patients.

ALIGNA3D – Sacconey-Pfister Alexandre, 3D-printed orthoses for improved hallux valgus treatment.

ALTISCREEN – Dumea Leonard, HE-Arc (BE-JU-NE), Handheld devices for drug screening.

CAPTAIM/APHERYON – Saini Massimo, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next-generation liquid biopsy to make cancer vaccines.

CLEE MEDICAL – Lapinski Matthew, Real-time vision and control for brain surgery.

DENTAL ROBOTICS – Dry Kinga Ildiko, Ultralight 3 in 1 system to empower mobile dental providers.

DEXTEROUS ENDOSCOPES – Piskarev Yegor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Equipping doctors with next-generation endoscope technology.

DOXOMED – Hashemi Pouya, Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG), The all-in-one digital healthcare ecosystem.

MEDICAL WIZARDRY – Jauvtis Louis, Fachhochschule Graubünden, Robotic articulating tool for precise bone cutting.

MEDRICH – Du Xiaoyu, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Titanium-hydrogel implants for joint arthroplasty.

MOLESENSE – Barbruni Gian Luca, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Shaping women's health through molecular wearables.

MYOLINK – Mendez Vincent, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), EMG & kinematic data for personalized gait rehab

NEURODAIGNOSTICS – Langer Nicolas, University of Zurich (UZH), AI-powered cognitive diagnostics.

NEUROVIA BIOELECTRONICS – Shalby Omar, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Developing devices for blood pressure modulation.

NEXTGUIDE – Bayer Alexander, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), An AI-powered white cane for the visually impaired.

OPTIMALPSI – Smit Thijs, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Topology optimization for patient-specific spinal implants.

OPTIZONE – Baniasad Mina, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Pushing athletic boundaries safely with personalized care.

ORTHOSENS – Hannema Gwenaël, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Making standard orthopedic implants smart.

PARABOLIS – Mesfin Josh, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Microbotic thrombolytics targeting deep vein thrombosis.

PERFORMANCE MOUTHGUARD – Nasrollahzadeh Nasser, Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV), Unique mouthguards to reduce concussion risk.

SCANVIO MEDICAL – Tuchs Schmid Stefan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI-assisted ultrasound diagnostics for gynecology.

SEFIT HEALTH – Börlin Elena, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Therapeutic stress management for less reliance on meds.

SOFTSOCKET – Ammann Cara, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Developing forearm sports prostheses sockets for children.

SURGEXPLORE – Ghamsarian Negin, University of Bern (UNIBE), AI platform for surgical training and clinical discovery.

TIGHTVALVE – Jahren Silje Ekroll, University of Bern (UNIBE), First device for measuring valve leakage in heart surgery.

VELTIST – Anthis Alexandre, University Hospital Balgrist, Solutions to prevent and detect surgical leaks.

VERSIVE – Togni Reto, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Redefining wheelchairs with steering-by-leaning technology.

VIDASENSE – Behbood Naeimeh, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Remote monitoring for maternal and fetal health.

WATCHIBIA – Nijpels-Tishurova Olga, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Smart straps for mechanical watches.

ZURIEV – Zhang Yanan, University Hospital of Zurich, Breakthrough non-invasive cancer detection and monitoring.

MICRO-, NANO TECHNOLOGY

4D-PICOSENSE – Kugathasan Thanushan, University of Geneva (UNIGE), High-speed LiDAR sensors for all lighting conditions.

DROPGEN – Dietsche Claudius, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), High-throughput screening in a compact solution.

LIGHTIUM – Loizeau Frédéric, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Building the next generation of data infrastructure.

MINYSA – Abid Salem, Hautes école vaudoises, Smart gallium nitride power modules for efficient systems.

MOLECL – Chernev Andrey, University of Lausanne (UNIL), Nanopore-based detection of protein modifications.

RHONEXUM – Carbon Vicente, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Advancing cryogenic electronics for quantum and beyond.

SCALE LASERS – Stark David, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Mid-infrared lasers for portable multicolor sensing.

YQUANTUM – Jünger Christian, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Building the future of scalable quantum hardware.

PROJECT SELECTION

→ **990 PROJECTS**
applied for Venture Kick

→ **82 APPLICATIONS**
per month

→ **63%**
from German-speaking Switzerland

→ **33%**
from French-speaking Switzerland

→ **52%**
of supported projects are from ETH Zurich
and EPF Lausanne

→ **42%**
of supported projects have women in the
founding team

Applications to Venture Kick grew by 12.5% year-on-year, reaching 990 in 2025 (up from 880 in 2024). Most applications came from the German-speaking region (63%), followed by the French-speaking region (33%), and Italian-speaking Ticino (4%).

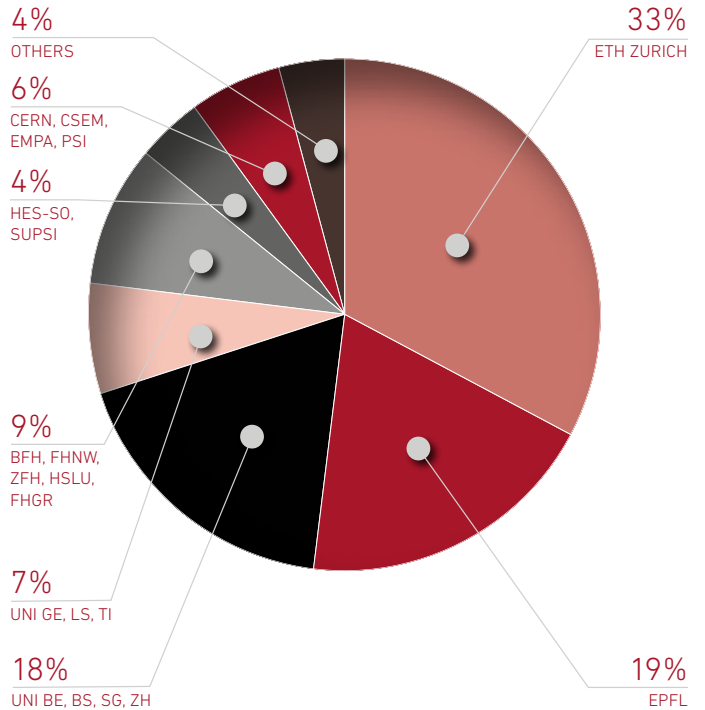
Venture Kick attracts applicants nationwide, with 39% of submissions originating from the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL), and 61% from 39 other universities and research institutions.

Applications span all high-tech sectors. Information and communication technologies (ICT) dominate with 39%, followed by life sciences (26%, including biotech and medtech). Cleantech projects account for 6%, the same share as electronics/mechanics (6%). Materials/chemicals and micro/nano-technologies account for 2% each, while 19% fall under other sectors.

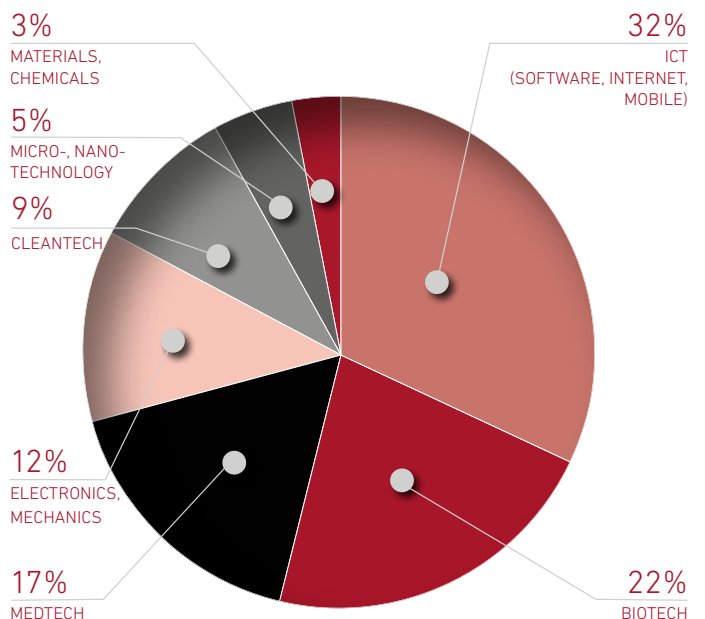
Selection remains competitive. Projects from ETHZ and EPFL represent 52% of those selected, up from 46% in 2024. Among supported projects, 39% are in life sciences, 32% in ICT confirming the strong interest and potential of AI solutions, 9% in cleantech, 12% in electronics/mechanics, 5% in micro/nano-technologies, and 3% in materials/chemicals.

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

BY UNIVERSITY



BY SECTOR



FINANCES

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

	ACTUAL 2025		BUDGET 2026	
CASH SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	8,320,000	73.5%	9,580,000	73.5%
Grants of CHF 10,000	1,300,000		1,480,000	
Convertible loans of CHF 40,000	3,120,000		3,600,000	
Convertible loans of CHF 100,000	3,900,000		4,500,000	

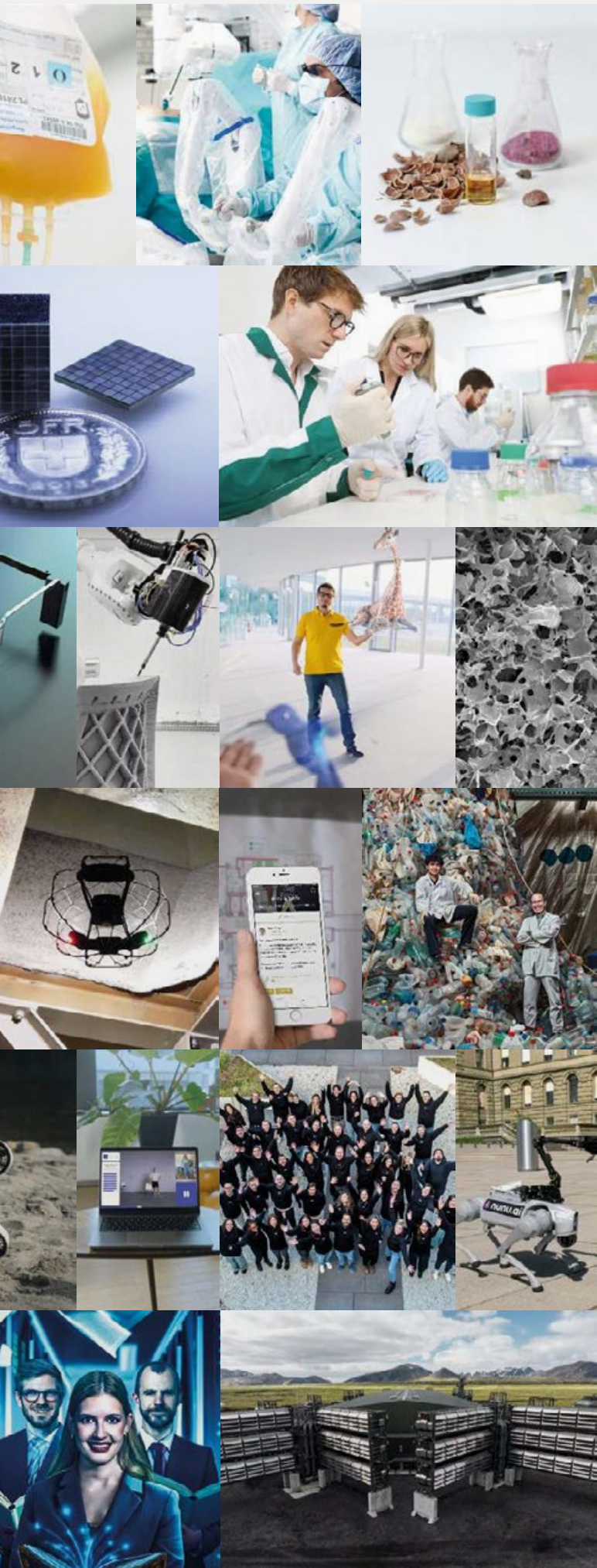
INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	2,520,000	22.3%	2,900,000	22.2%
Venture Briefing contribution				
Review of 1,000 project applications, feedback and preparation for candidates / Validation of 472 projects for presentation				
Presentation to investors and supporters at 68 jury sessions in 2025 and 78 in 2026				
Personal introductions to investors and pilot customers				
Individual coaching and support at 74 Kickers Briefings, Kickers Camps, and Demo Brunches in 2025 and 89 in 2026				
Written feedback and pitch videos, monthly reporting, startup hotline				
Support and management for invested portfolio				
Coordination and recommendations for Kick Fund investment				
Press releases and articles for startups to create national and international visibility				
Creation of PRs, articles, video portraits, social media news about Startups				
Promotion of startup news via social media and news channels (Handelszeitung, startup.ch, startupticker.ch, and others)				
Coordination and recommendations for Kick Fund investment				
Business software, checklists and templates				

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	485,000	4.3%	560,000	4.3%
Planning / Team management / Reporting				
Promotion at all Swiss universities and partners				
Startup Portfolio Management / Kick Foundation Transfer / Financial returns / Donations				
IT / Website development and maintenance				
Kick Foundation Audit / Accounting				

TOTAL (excluding VAT)	11,325,000	100%	13,040,000	100%
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OUTLOOK

For 2026, we plan the following:

- 1,000 APPLICATIONS
- 472 PROJECTS PRESENTED
at 78 jury sessions (30 Stage 1 / 30 Stage 2 / 18 Stage 3)
- 283 PROJECTS FUNDED
(148 at CHF 10,000 / 90 at CHF 40,000 / 45 at CHF 100,000)
- CHF 9,580,000
in seed funding for startup projects
- 69 KICKERS CAMPS & DEMO BRUNCHES
Individual coaching workshops / investor matchmaking events
- 20 KICKERS' BRIEFINGS
Workshops at Swiss universities

GOAL 2035: 100,000 JOBS

Venture Kick is looking for additional CHF 50 million from donors to achieve the following milestones in nine years from now:

- 3,000 STARTUPS
3,000 incorporated high-tech companies, resulting in 2,600 active Venture Kick alumni
- 100,000 JOBS
40 sustainable jobs created per active Venture Kick alumni (2025: 19 jobs per alumni)
- CHF 50 BILLION INVESTMENT
CHF 19.3 million of investment raised per active Venture Kick alumni (2025: CHF 11 million per alumni)

1 Million Plus

STARTUPS FROM SWISS UNIVERSITIES CAN GET MORE THAN A MILLION IN CASH PLUS SUPPORT AND GREAT NETWORKS. IT STARTS WITH A FIRST KICK OF CHF 10,000 FOR A GREAT IDEA.

Since 2007, the philanthropic initiative Venture Kick has invested CHF 100+ million to support 1,234+ startup projects from Swiss universities. Today 830 active high-tech companies have attracted CHF 10+ billion from investors, created 16,100+ jobs and keep growing strong!



www.venturekick.ch

THE PRIVATE INITIATIVE VENTURE KICK IS FINANCED BY:

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