Chosen through the 19th annual IMD Startup Competition, with inputs from CTI, investiere, MassChallenge Switzerland and VentureKick from 135 candidates, the following 26 ventures will work with IMD’s MBA and EMBA participants in 2017.

**Executive MBA start-ups 2016/17**

**Coat-X**
www.coat-x.com, Andreas Hogg
Coat-X provides an encapsulation technology using ultrathin layers to protect electronics, sensors, or implantable devices against corrosion caused by harsh environmental conditions.

**FORIMTECH**
www.forimtech.ch, Iris Desforges & Eugene Grigoriev
Particle physics technologies for cancer surgery.

**Haelixa**
www.haelixa.com, Michela Puddu
DNA-tracer based solutions for an improved underground assessment of geothermal and oil reservoirs to guarantee an efficient and sustainable energy future.

**regenHU**
www.regenHU.com, Marc Thurner
regenHU – a three dimensional biotechnology company, exploiting the potential of 3D bioprinting & cell based therapies – is leading the development of biomedical products for regenerative medicine & drug discovery
SeerVision
www.seervision.ch, Nikolaos Kariotoglou
SeerVision design and builds cameras with lens movement and image quality optimisation automation features for simplifying and reducing the cost of marketing video production

SimplicityBio
www.simplicitybio.com, Miguel Barreto-Sanz & Pedro Faustino
SimplicityBio’s proprietary machine learning platform enables the next generation of diagnostic tests and drugs, with best-in-class biomarkers

Skypull
www.skypull.com, Nicola Mona
SKYPULL: An airborne power system using a fully autonomous drone to generate electricity from altitude winds

Solar.Aero
www.openstratosphere.com & www.solarstratos.com, Simon Johnson & Thierry Plojoux
Solar.Aero will operate regional satellite-like services using state-of-the-art high-altitude perpetually flying aircraft and systems.

SUN bioscience
www.sunbioscience.ch, Sylke Hoehnel
Organoids as a Service: Personalising drug screenings using patients’ own stem cells.

Topadur Pharma
www.topadur.com/, Reto Naef
Topadur Pharma develops innovative proprietary drugs for severe wound-healing problems in hospitals

Viprodev
www.viprodev.com, Luciano Torres & Fabiana Visentin
Viprodev is selling a revolutionary device that is able to provide real-time depth information using regular RGB cameras with a portable dedicated hardware, being very useful for robotics, drones, self-driving cars, VR and AR applications.

A taste of what the entrepreneurs joining the EMBA will experience in Silicon Valley can be seen here: http://www.imd.org/executive-mba/learning-methods/start-up-competition
FULLTIME MBA STARTUPS 2016/17

Advanced Machines
www.advanced-machines.com, Stanislav Begounov
We manufacture atmospheric pressure plasma systems used for treatment of surfaces prior to printing, bonding, coating, etc.

BeeHelpful
www.primalbee.com, Alessandro Gamberoni & Gianmario Riganti
BeeHelpful developed and sells worldwide a new patented honeybee hive that redesigns the beekeeper economy, saves the honeybees, and sets a new standard.

Eyeware
www.eyeware.tech, Kenneth Funes & Serban Mogos
Eyeware develops eye and face tracking technology that improves the communication between humans and machines, with direct application in healthcare, social robotics, and behaviour studies.

Hydromea
www.hydromea.com, Felix Schill & Alexander Bahr
Hydromea, the new standard to find out what’s in the water - fast, consistent, complete.

Intento
www.intentoch.ch, Andrea Maesani
Intento has developed a medical device to enable severely paralyzed stroke patients to recover motor function.

loanboox
www.loanboox.ch, Stefan Muehlemann
loanboox is the leading Swiss platform for issuing public sector debt

MachIQ Industrial Services
www.machiq.com, Roy Chikballapur
MachIQ is a 2-sided SaaS offering intelligent software for Industrial Asset Performance Management to manufacturing companies and a comprehensive platform for their machine suppliers to deliver after sales services including spare parts sales, remote technical support and other Industry 4.0-enabled services.

mininavident
www.mininavident.com, Frank Berlinghoff & Katrin Siebenbürger Hacki
DENACAM, a handheld navigation system for the precise implantation of dental implants
moveART
www.moveart.swiss, Norbert Roztocki
Unique ‘walk-in’ sculptures inspired by nature and children.

NeoCoat
www.neocoat.ch, Christophe Provent
NeoCoat grows diamond to provide high-quality materials for the metrology, water treatment, horology, tool making, high-tech optoelectronic and jewellery markets

SteriLux
www.sterilux.ch, Marc Spaltenstein
SteriLux is developing a technology for the sterilization of medical instruments in low-income countries

SwissDeCode
www.swissdecode.com, Brij Sahi
Food safety and compliance in a box.

Timbtrack
www.timbtrack.com, Quentin d’Huart & Günther Marten González-Carrascosa
Our goal is to simplify forestry management and maximize productivity by introducing leading-edge technologies to the rural sector

TwentyGreen
www.twentygreen.com, Duncan Sutherland
TwentyGreen produces greener feed for sustainable and responsible animal farming

SMEx
Arnaud Salomon
SMEx is a Financial Services Platform built upon the concept of a Currency Marketplace dedicated to SMEs which offers each of its members international payment accounts in 30 currencies with secure, fast and affordable payment features.”
Previous winners of our competition have done well. In the recently announced 2016 Top 100 Swiss Startups, 5 of the Top 10 had worked with our students, 11 of the Top 25, and 31 of the Top 100 (up from 26 in 2015)!

Our entrepreneurial “alumni” include Abionic, AC Immune [IPOed in September], Aeon Scientific, Aleva Neurotherapeutics, Artmyn, Bcomp, BestMile, BioVersys, BioWatch, CashSentinel, Climeworks, CombaGroup, Comfylight, Comparis, Dacuda, DahuShaper, DistalMotion, G-Therapeutics, GlycArt (acquired by Roche), HPL [sold to Dow], iTaste.com [acquired], Kooaba [bought by Qualcomm], Lemoptix [acquired by Intel], L.E.S.S., Lunaphore, MindMaze (Switzerland’s lone “unicorn”), NetGuardians, NEXThink, Polyneuron, QualySense, Peripal, picoDrill [sold to Asahi Glass], Poken, QGel [raised $12 mio this week], ScanTrust, Spotme, Uepaa, and Xeltis. And many more. Over 320 ventures since 1999!

This year 135 ventures applied to the competition, the most we’ve ever had, which made the triage very difficult, especially given that at least half of the files we reviewed were of extremely high quality and a good fit with our programs. We encourage those who were not chosen to see this as just one more of the many negative moments you’ll learn from and overcome as you work towards success. We congratulate all who applied, and we are once more heartened by the volume, vigour and rigor of entrepreneurs in Switzerland.

According to The Global Entrepreneurship Index report by GEDI, Switzerland is ranked 2nd in the world after the US for entrepreneurship, but its weak areas are networking and high growth. These also align with the findings of the recent IMD online survey with 198 entrepreneurs who were previous winners of the IMD Startup Competition (Jung, Leleux, Pulcrano).

• Swiss entrepreneurs have a high rate of survival (83%)*. But Swiss entrepreneurs seem to rarely create large companies so that only 8% of the researched companies reached revenue of more than CHF 5m.
• The Swiss ecosystem seems to be adverse to “new business model” and service start-ups, preferring technical product companies.
• As one of the effective ways of developing a network, the role of venture competitions was shown to be an effective means, regardless of whether the competitions were won or not.

Additional insights on how we’ve been successful in choosing winners over the years: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-do-we-pick-winners-jim-pulcrano?trk=mp-reader-card

The next call for candidates will be October 2017. For any questions about the IMD Startup Competition please contact jim.pulcrano@affiliate.imd.org

* Companies ranged in age from 16 years to 1 year, and participated in the competition over the period 1999-2015
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