

2022

15 YEARS OF KICKING FORWARD SWISS INNOVATION

VENTURE
KICK



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KICKING FORWARD SWISS INNOVATION

VISION WITH IMPACT

Venture Kick was launched in 2007 with the vision to double the number of spin-offs at Swiss universities, accelerate the time-to-market, and highlight the attractiveness of these young companies for professional investors.

Venture Kick offers a nine-month kicking process to effectively support young entrepreneurs with high-potential business ideas on their journey to market. The focus on business development means that we prioritize customers and not technology. The tightly structured program results in the flourishing development of the entrepreneurs. The jury, consisting of investors and entrepreneurs, plays a major role in the highly competitive selection process. 15 Years of Venture Kick represents CHF 44.85 million invested in 917 projects across 540 jury sessions. As a result, it has contributed to the incorporation of 718 companies cumulating 11,362 active jobs that have attracted more than CHF 6.7 billion. And in addition to the financial support, Venture Kick has become a strong credibility stamp for investors and a visibility boost at the national and international level.

IMPACT WITH GLOBAL SCALING

Starting small in 2007, we had a big vision. We believed in the business potential of great science at Swiss universities and in supporting the next generation of successful entrepreneurs for the prosperity of Switzerland's economy and society. But Venture

Kick alumni achieve much more. They develop innovative solutions to tackle global challenges ranging from animal testing and cyber threats to global warming and women's health. Inspiring founders disrupt the status quo and make the world more sustainable: www.venturekick.ch/15years.

THE SUSTAINABLE KICK CYCLE

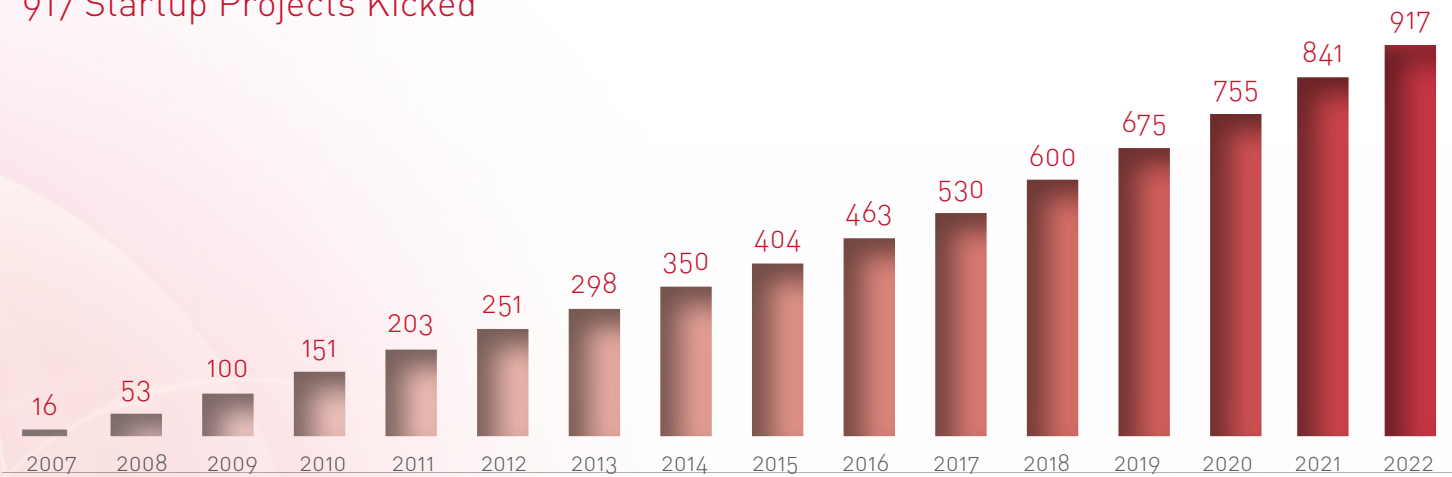
Venture Kick is a philanthropic initiative of a private consortium. Being private and independent we understand our role also to be one of an agenda setter and catalyst. The initiative continued to evolve its model as well as extend the means offered to the entrepreneurs: In 2018, the convertible loan model with CHF 150,000 was introduced and the winners could apply for an additional CHF 150,000 InnoBooster grant offered by the Gebert Rüf Stiftung. In 2022, the Kickfund was launched. This lean, legally independent venture capital fund proposes an additional investment of up to CHF 850,000. The fund invests systematically in the winners and Venture Kick can in turn use part of the returns to kick the next generation of startups. This produces a funding cycle that creates sustainable added value on a continuous basis.

P. Vonmont
Dr. Pascale Vonmont
Strategy Board, Venture Kick
CEO, Gebert Rüf Stiftung

S. Avedik
Dr. Suzanne Avedik
Strategy Board, Venture Kick
Delegierte der GL, Ernst Göhner Stiftung

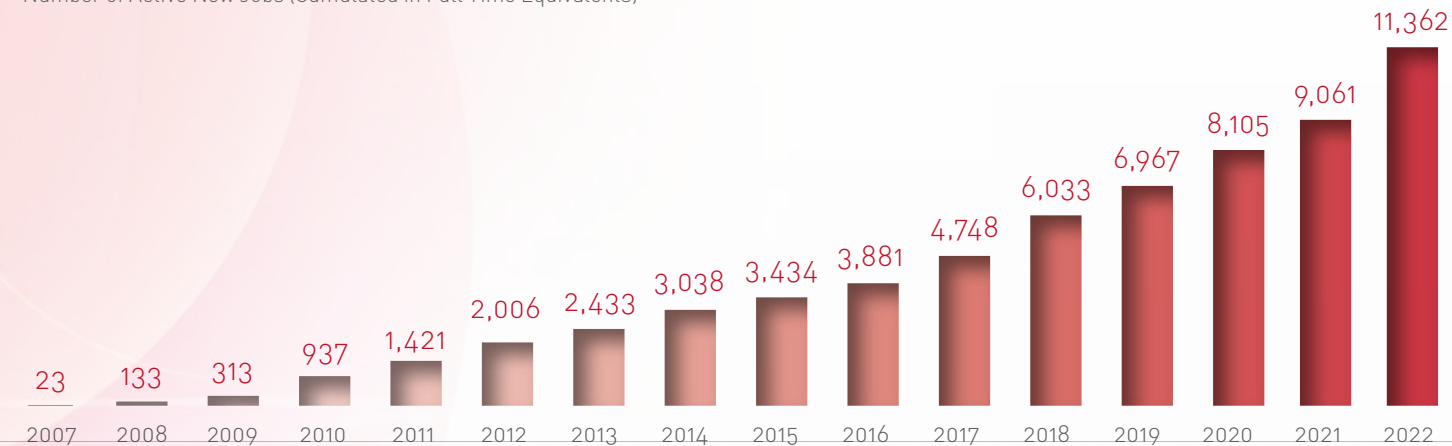
15 YEARS OF GROWING IMPACT

917 Startup Projects Kicked



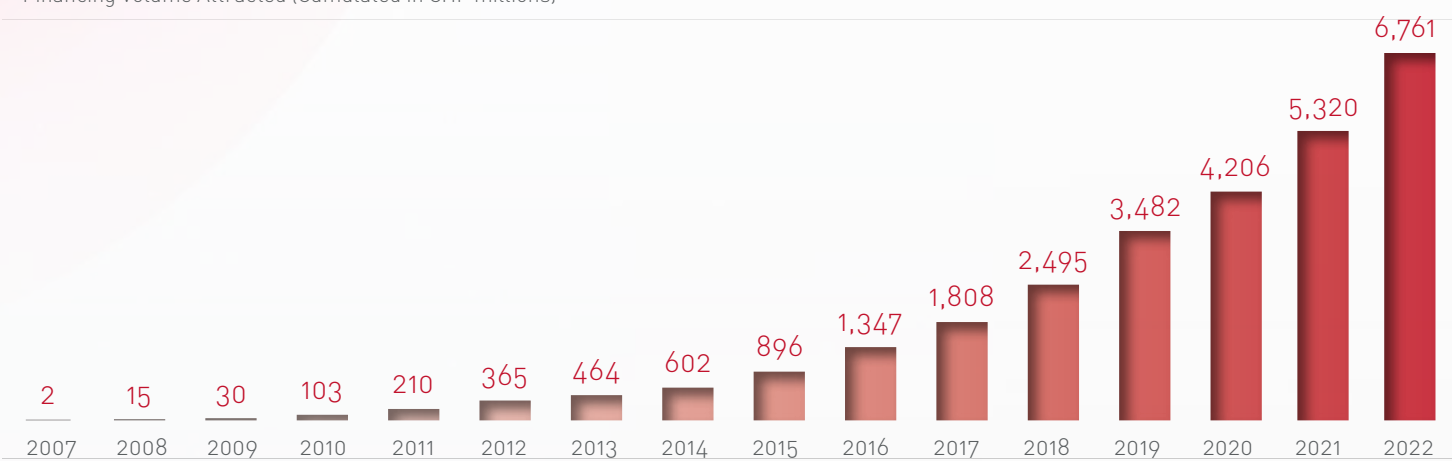
11,362 Jobs Created

Number of Active New Jobs (Cumulated in Full Time Equivalents)



CHF 6.7 Billion Raised

Financing Volume Attracted (Cumulated in CHF millions)



THREEFOLD MISSION

UNIQUE FINANCING APPROACH

Venture Kick helps turn promising research projects into compelling business cases. We close the gap in the innovation chain that otherwise sees many startups struggle when they try to move from the lab to the market-place.

Launching a company requires more than a product – it takes business knowledge and access to seed capital. Venture Kick delivers both. With our expert jury, we identify, support, and promote innovative ideas that have big market potential. Our vision is threefold: to double the number of spin-offs from Swiss universities; to make these more attractive to investors; and to halve their time-to-market.

To achieve this, we collaborate closely with Swiss universities and all relevant organizations involved in hightech entrepreneurship.

GLOBAL IMPACT

Venture Kick's impact in Switzerland is considerable: Since 2007, we have supported 917 spin-off projects that have become 718 high-tech companies. These have created 11,362 active jobs and attracted investment totaling CHF 6.7 billion. The TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award included 52 of them in its most recent ranking. Supported startups continue addressing global challenges to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all of us, e.g by scaling efficient clean and renewable energy technology, or bringing novel treatments for global health priorities to market.

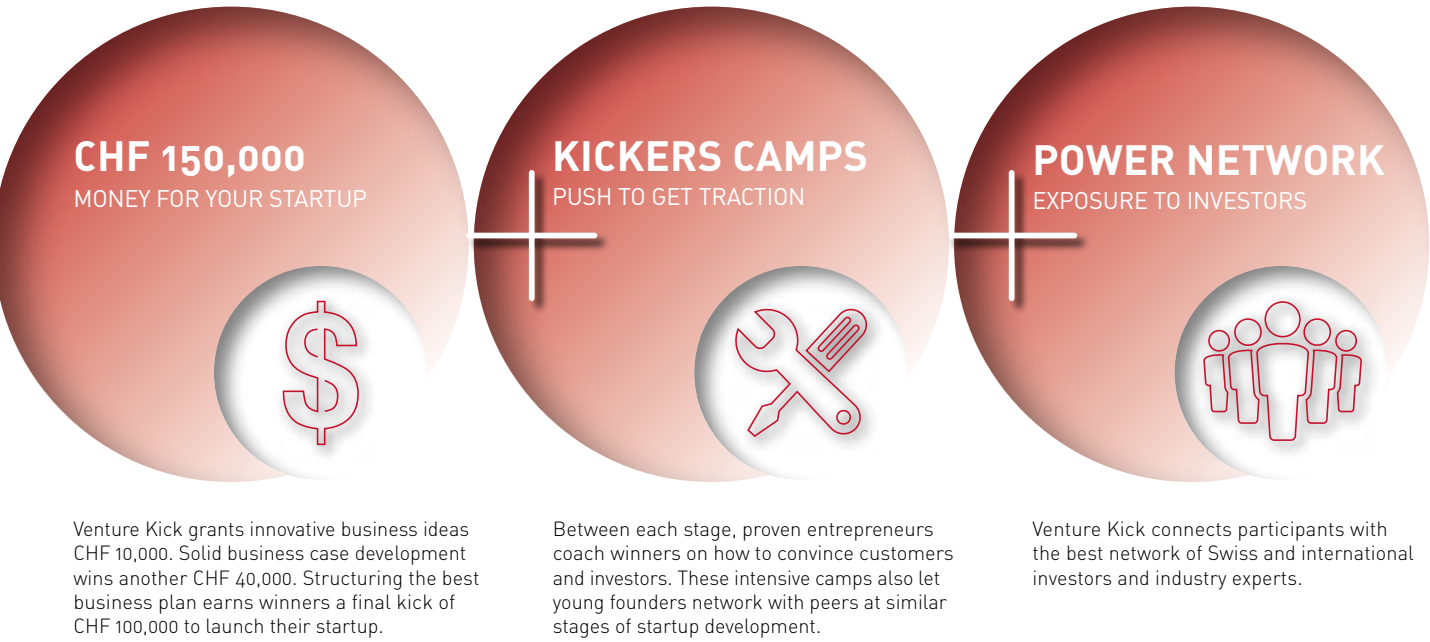
In early 2022, Climeworks raised CHF 600 million in equity funding to accelerate the direct air capture and storage. This innovation has become a popular solution for companies with ambitious net-zero targets. Among them are companies such as Stripe, Square, Spotify, Microsoft, LGT, PwC Switzerland, and more recently, UBS. Distalmotion announced in January the closing of a USD 90 million Series E financing to support the global commercialization of its surgical robot Dexter, the first clinical use of which happened in Germany in July. Hemotune closed a CHF 7.25 million Series B1 funding round for the development of HemoSystem, a breakthrough blood purification platform based on nanoengineered magnetic beads. The startup also won this year's German Innovation Award. Geneva researcher Madiha Derouazi from AMAL Therapeutics won the European Inventor Award 2022. Co-founder of ArcoScreen Margaux Duchamp and co-founder of Rea diagnostics Loulia Kassem made it in the Forbes 30 under 30 ranking. Inso-light, a Lausanne-based startup that develops solar panels with record efficiency, raised CHF 5 million in Series A funding in 2020 and started producing and selling their modules in 2022. Last October, Inoslight commissioned its first agrivoltaic pilot project in France and partnered with Fondazione Agrion to build another one in Italy.

We provide an overview of the bold visions of the founders behun our Swiss startups kicking it in the 15 main global challenge our world actually faces, from animal testing to women health, passing by energy efficiency and surgery amongst others (pages 12 – 14). The core of our mission lies in enabling their innovations to become sustainable solutions for global problems.

MUCH MORE THAN JUST MONEY

In 2022, the Venture Kick program supported over 80 high-potential entrepreneurs, giving them a structured path towards building a winning startup.

Venture Kick’s model offers founders early-stage financing in three stages, alongside focused business support and access to a powerful network of investors.



HOLISITC SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

The money the Venture Kick foundation makes available to Swiss startups is allocated competitively by juries of professional investors. Our highly qualified pool of jurors – private and institutional investors, startup experts, and industry representatives – give feedback on all participants’ pitches. The rigorous pitching process ensures that the best ideas progress through the process. Only half of the presented projects will advance to the next stage. The best founders therefore gain three experiences pitching to Venture Kick juries in preparation for future fundraising from VCs and institutional investors.

Venture Kick’s unique program of competitive pitches combined with intense, entrepreneurial training and coaching, community networking, and business development deadlines, lasts approximately nine months. This blend of challenge and support is vital to building strong foundations for startups’ long-term success.

“Going through the Venture Kick process has been extremely valuable for the development of Composite Recycling. Considering we are only a year old, I am extremely proud of how far we have come and how fast we have developed. This was in part due to the visibility and funding we received from Venture Kick which was one of our earliest supporters. I also greatly appreciated the insights gained during the kickers camps which really challenged and grew our ambitions.”

Dr. **Mitchell Anderson**, co-founder and CTO of Composite Recycling

“Venture Kick provided us with great exposure, a network of expert jurors that are ready to help, and a financial boost – all of which are much needed in the early stages of a startup.”

Valentina Vongrad, Ph.D., co-founder of FimmCyte

Venture Kick provides startups up to CHF 150,000 in seed funding and professional guidance in developing their business. Startups pitch to expert juries at three stages to obtain funding, gain direct feedback, and access an international network of 200+ successful entrepreneurs and investors. Winners of Venture Kick are eligible for CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund and for an InnoBooster grant of an additional CHF 150,000 from Gebert R f Stiftung that benefited 16 projects, supported with CHF 2,400,000 in 2022.



A UNIQUE ENTREPRENEURIAL AND PHILANTHROPIC MODEL

Venture Kick supports spin-off projects with a combination of grants and convertible loans with founder-friendly conditions. If founders exit their startups successfully or repay loans, all the proceeds flow back into Venture Kick’s charitable fond, to increase the support for future generations of founders.

“Venture Kick has been invaluable for the past 12 months. It kickstarted us in terms of fundraising and finding investors, some of the investors in the jury approached us after our pitch. This usually doesn’t happen. Even more, the training – and particularly the feedback – of its great experts helped us to shape our business case and focus on value-generating activities. We feel very honored and are grateful to be part of the leadin start-up platform in Switzerland.”

Melanie Aregger, CEO of Avelo

ADVANTAGE: ENTREPRENEURS

Venture Kick’s model has three advantages. Firstly, the substantial support gives entrepreneurs the resources to accelerate at a critical phase of business development. Secondly, convertible loans give founders flexibility as they fundraise from investors. Thirdly, the pay-it-back model reinforces the foundation’s philanthropic and entrepreneurial philosophy for long-term support: Successful entrepreneurs who have benefited from the program assist future generations!

“The financial support, business insights, access to a smart pool of diversely talented individuals together with the overall experience gathered from our Venture Kick journey will be instrumental for the follow-up fundraising activities of NextImmune.”

Rajesh Jayachandran, MD, Ph.D.,
Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of NextImmune

THE NATURE OF VENTURE KICK STARTUPS

Entrepreneurs are at the heart of innovation. Our 15 Year anniversary is the perfect occasion to share more about the nature and composition of startup founding teams. We're also using this opportunity to analyze the intellectual property prevalence among the supported startups, which underlines our mission to transfer science to the market.

It is important to remember that every startup and founding team is different and cannot be summarized in statistics. Hence, we do not aim to establish a "common" profile, but rather provide an overall picture, including some expected results and others that are more surprising.

NUMBERS OF PATENTS

1,062

Total Number of Patents Granted

1,036

Total Number of Patents Applied



6.9

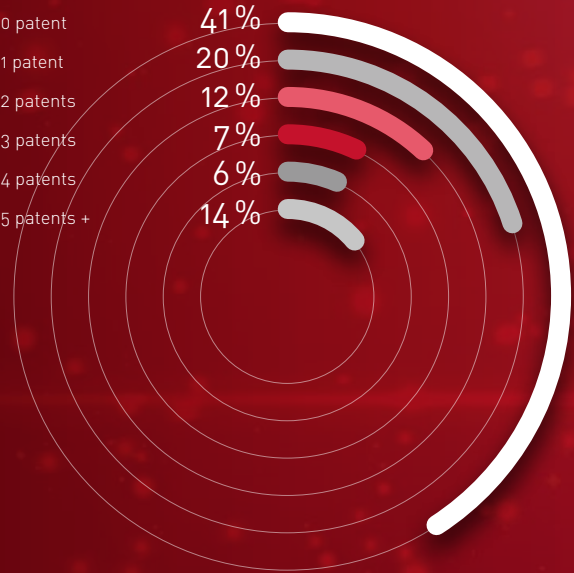
Average Patents
Granted or Applied per
Company

NUMBERS OF PATENTS

Our startups have a strong innovative background, and this is confirmed by the numbers, with almost seven patents granted or applied for per startup. Overall, 59 % of the Venture Kick startups have applied for or have been granted one or more patents.

Among the startups that are securing intellectual property via patents, there seems to be a tendency to either have only one patent (20 %) or to build up a portfolio of five and more (14 %). Furthermore, 41 % of firms do not pursue a patenting strategy, which reflects the spectrum of supported technology fields, including a fair share of ICT startups, where patents often only play a marginal role. Still, most supported startups build and invest actively in a patent portfolio to secure their competitive advantage. The 2000+ patents that have been granted or applied underline Venture Kick's position as a deep tech initiative that supports highly innovative startups.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMPANIES ACCORDING TO THE NUMBERS OF APPLIED OR GRANTED PATENTS



INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS



Technology startups are still predominantly created by men. This holds true globally, and it is also the case for Venture Kick startups.

Several statistics place the number of tech startups led by women at around 10 %. Looking at the complete founder's team within Venture Kick, we found that 31 % comprise women, including 5 % with exclusively female founders, which shows that women are more present than expected, yet still underrepresented. While the imbalances are slowly improving (from 22 % to 26 % in mixed co-founding teams and from 3 % to 5 % in female-only cofounding teams over the past five years), they still fall short of parity.

Thus, increasing the number and presence of female founders continues to be a key topic in our agenda and we are looking forward to seeing how this evolves over the years to come.

FOUNDING TEAM COMPOSITION

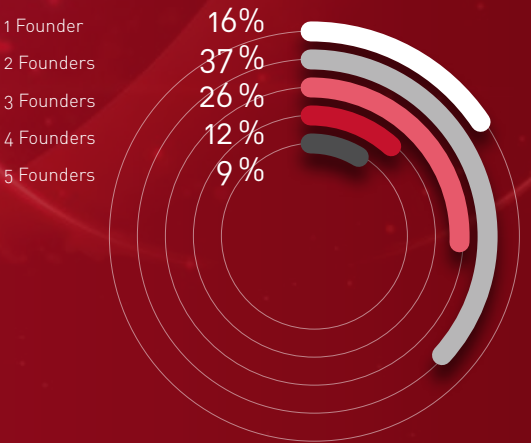
With 76 % of startups counting international members among their founding team members, a well-known fact is confirmed: there is a high presence of foreign nationals in high-tech startups in Switzerland. 24 % of the teams consist of exclusively foreigners, showing the key role of international profiles in Switzerland.

The vast majority of Venture Kick startups are composed of two founders. Larger co-founding teams of five and more are the least common (9 %) but, interestingly, seem to perform best at attracting investment, with an average of CHF 13.08 million and 27 jobs created among the Venture Kick startups. In comparison, the predominant two-person teams (37 %) attracted an average of CHF 11.95 million and created 14 jobs per startup, and single founders (16 %) raised an average of CHF 7.56 million and created 13 positions. One needs to consider that in teams of two or more often not all the co-founders take an operational role, yet still contribute with "brain power".

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONALITIES IN FOUNDING TEAMS



NUMBER OF FOUNDERS PER TEAM



ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

STARTUPS RAISED MORE THAN CHF 6.7 BILLION

Venture Kick has provided Swiss university spin-offs with seed capital, coaching, and access to professional investors since 2007. From 5,944 applications to 718 incorporated companies over 15 years, the result is 11,362 jobs created and CHF 6.7 billion in investment attracted.

- **5,944 APPLICATIONS**
received from more than 20 Swiss universities
- **2,980 CANDIDATES**
pitched at 540 jury sessions
- **917 STARTUP PROJECTS**
supported with CHF 44,850,000 in capital
- **718 NEW STARTUPS**
incorporated
- **11,362 NEW JOBS** (full-time-equivalent)
created
- **CHF 6,761,000,000**
in financing raised by the supported startups
- **CHF 150** (on average)
invested by others for every CHF 1 of seed money
from Venture Kick

in technology-based startup projects, shows a much higher survival rate. Of the 917 projects supported between 2007 and 2022, only 217 (23 %) have stopped. Of these, 115 have ceased while still in the project phase, meaning only 102 (14 % of incorporated companies) disappeared following incorporation.

As for job creation, we see that Venture Kick startups grow strongly after four years following incorporation already employing 14 people on average. Typically, startups use the first years to bring technology to market readiness, to sign first customers, and to win investors before they ramp up staff. Companies that are nine years old and older created an average of 34 jobs each to date.

The Venture Kick data confirms that the jury does a good job selecting the best startups. Of the 222 companies that received funding at all three stages, only 20 ceased activities (9 %) and the remaining 202 have created an average of 28 jobs. Even the Venture Kick startups that did not reach the final stage are stronger than average – of the 298 companies that received only the stage 1 support, 245 are still active (82 %), with an average of 11 jobs created.

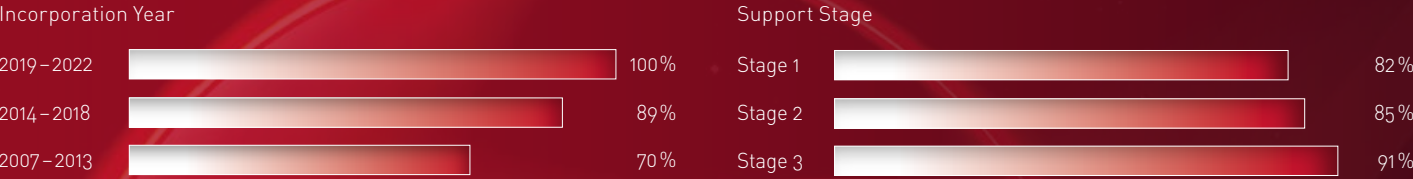
ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ACQUISITION TARGETS

Venture Kick startups have demonstrated their ability to win substantial investments, having attracted CHF 6.7 billion to date. Equity investments from business angels and venture capitalists (a cumulative CHF 4.3 billion) account for the largest source of financing (65 %) by far. Venture Kick startups have also proven to be attractive acquisition targets for industry leaders with transactions and exits amounting to CHF 1.4 billion to date.

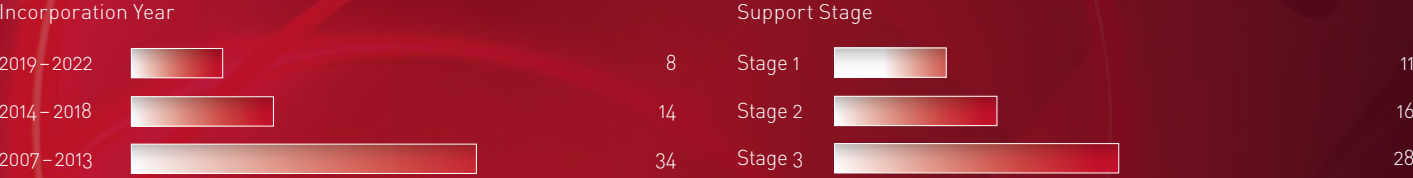
Looking at the investments per active startup, the amount is low during the first four years (an average of CHF 2.27 million), then grows rapidly in the following years. Venture Kick startups supported between 2014 and 2018 already report attracting an average of CHF 6.09 million in investment, while this number more than quadrupled for the older companies from 2007 to 2013 having attracted an average of CHF 27.62 million per company.

The companies that received Venture Kick’s maximum support have so far raised a total of CHF 3.5 billion, an average of CHF 17.46 million per startup. The startups that only received CHF 10,000 from Venture Kick are also successful, having raised a combined CHF 1.2 billion (CHF 4.94 million on average).

86 % SURVIVAL RATE OF INCORPORATED STARTUPS



18 JOBS CREATED PER STARTUP



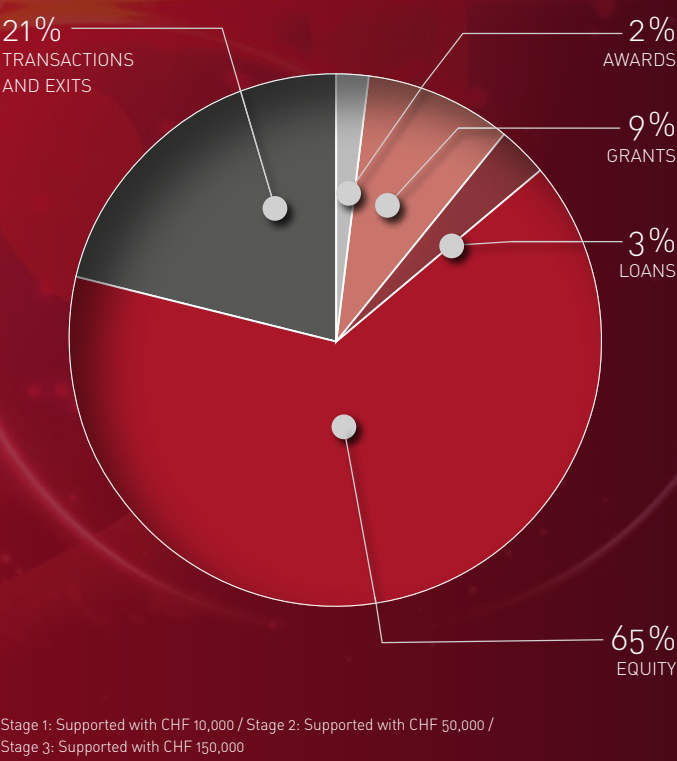
CHF 10.7 MILLION INVESTMENT PER STARTUP



EQUITY INVESTMENT



TOTAL MONEY INVESTED 2007-2021



150x INVESTMENT MULTIPLIER

Venture Kick has supported startup projects with CHF 44.85 million, which triggered CHF 6.7 billion in follow-up investment. That is the equivalent of CHF 150 invested by others for each franc of seed money paid out by Venture Kick.

HIGH SURVIVAL RATE AND STRONG GROWTH

Statistically, the number of companies that cease activities five years after incorporation is at approximately 50 %. The Venture Kick population, being rich

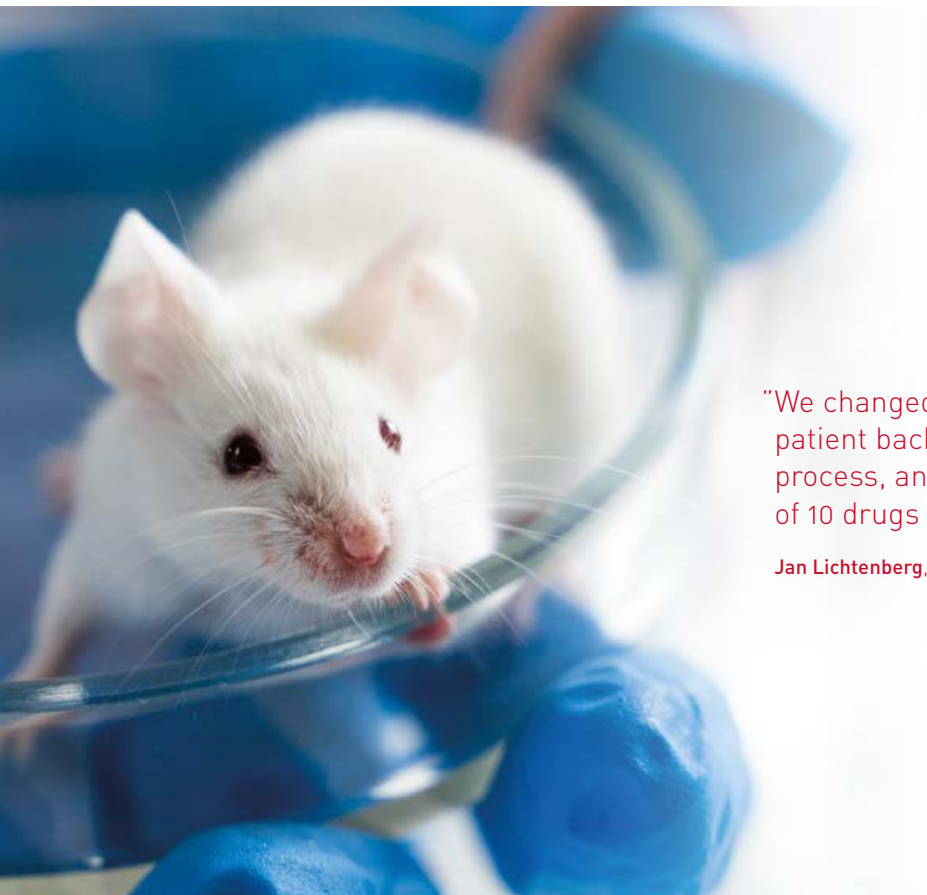


TACKLING 15 GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Discover how Venture Kick alumni develop innovative solutions to tackle global issues ranging from animal testing and cyber threats to global warming and women's health.

Scan the QR codes on the videos to watch inspiring founders explain their production processes, motivations, and missions to disrupt the status quo and make the world more sustainable. The QR codes above the startups' pictures will lead you to their full profile.

KICKING AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING



“We changed the paradigm and put the human patient back into the center of the drug discovery process, and that will help us to avoid that 9 out of 10 drugs failed in clinical trials.”

Jan Lichtenberg, CEO and Co-Founder of InSphero

Yearly, over **115 million animals** are used in testing for drugs and treatments. However, human cells and computer models increasingly provide a reliable alternative.

The **US, China, Australia, and Japan** conduct over **50 % of all tests on animals** across the world.

As of 2021, **44 countries globally have banned animal testing** for cosmetics. 95 % of all drugs that are effective in animal tests fail in human trials.

Venture Kick startups develop innovative non-animal approaches that advance drug discovery and safety testing.

Watch the video with Matteo Cornaglia, CEO & Founder of Nagi Bioscience, Marie Obien, CCO & Co-Founder of MaxWell Biosystems, and Jan Lichtenberg, CEO and Co-Founder of InSphero talk about finding alternatives to animal testing.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE.



KICKING AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING





FluoSphera
In vitro human biosystems that mimic essential features of human body organization. R&D services to pharmaceutical companies willing to de-risk drug development projects.



KICKED IN 2022.
Started pilots with major pharma and cosmetics customers.



InSphero
Organotypic, biological in vitro 3D microtissues for highly predictive drug testing.



KICKED IN 2008.
Global leader in 3D organoids. Ranked #1 at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award 2014. Secured over CHF 33M in funding.




MaxWell Biosystems
Advanced cell-imaging platform for drug development.



KICKED IN 2016.
Raised CHF 4M Series A in 2020. Ramping-up global sales of multiple products.



Nagi Bioscience
First device that allows replacing animal testing with tests conducted on micro-organisms.



KICKED IN 2018.
Top 100 Swiss Startup Award in 2020 and 2022. Venture Leaders Life Sciences in 2018.



Nanolive
Disruptive proprietary technology that allows exploration of a living cell in 3D without damaging it.



KICKED IN 2013.
3D cell explorer successfully launched and sold around the globe. Secured over CHF 25 M funding.

KICKING AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



"We look for new molecules that really overcome the resistant mechanisms in bacteria."

Marc Gitzinger, CEO and Founder of BioVersys

Antimicrobial resistance is **one of the top 10 global public health threats** facing humanity.

According to the WHO, as **pathogens become more drug-resistant**, treating infections and avoiding severe illness and death becomes more challenging.

To do their work effectively, **doctors need to be able to find the precise necessary antibiotic treatment** in a timely manner.

Venture Kick startups help modern medicine by finding and developing effective antimicrobials.

Learn more by watching Marc Gitzinger, Founder and CEO of BioVersys, Tomas de Wouters, Co-Founder & CEO of Pharmabiome, and Danuta Cichocka, Co-Founder & CEO of Resistell talk about their solutions to help modern medicine find and develop effective antimicrobials.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE

A video thumbnail showing three scientists in a laboratory setting. A large play button icon is overlaid on the center of the image. The text 'KICKING AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE' is at the bottom, and the 'VENTURE KICK' logo is in the top right corner.

KICKING AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

A circular image showing a person's mouth with a breath collector device inserted. The device is a clear tube with a purple cap.

Avelo

Invented the breath collector with broad utility in mind, comparable to other sample collection technologies such as blood tubes.

KICKED IN 2022.
Raised an equity round of CHF 2.2M in September the same year.

A circular image showing laboratory glassware, including a vial and a test tube, with red liquid inside.

BioVersys

Focusing on research and development of small molecules acting on novel bacterial targets with applications in Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and targeted microbiome modulation.

KICKED IN 2008.
Raised CHF 100M+ to develop clinical pipeline. Collaborations with global pharma.

A circular image showing two clear plastic bottles with blue and green caps, sitting on a laboratory bench.

Clemedi

Combine novel technologies – next-generation sequencing and machine learning – to bring a quantum leap into diagnosing infections.

KICKED IN 2018.
Launched its first CE-IVD product in EU for tuberculosis diagnosis.

A circular image showing two female scientists in white lab coats working together in a laboratory.

PharmaBiome

Platform to optimize the efficient development and production of defined, function-based microbiome therapies to treat intestinal diseases.

KICKED IN 2015.
Secured CHF 1.9M in total.

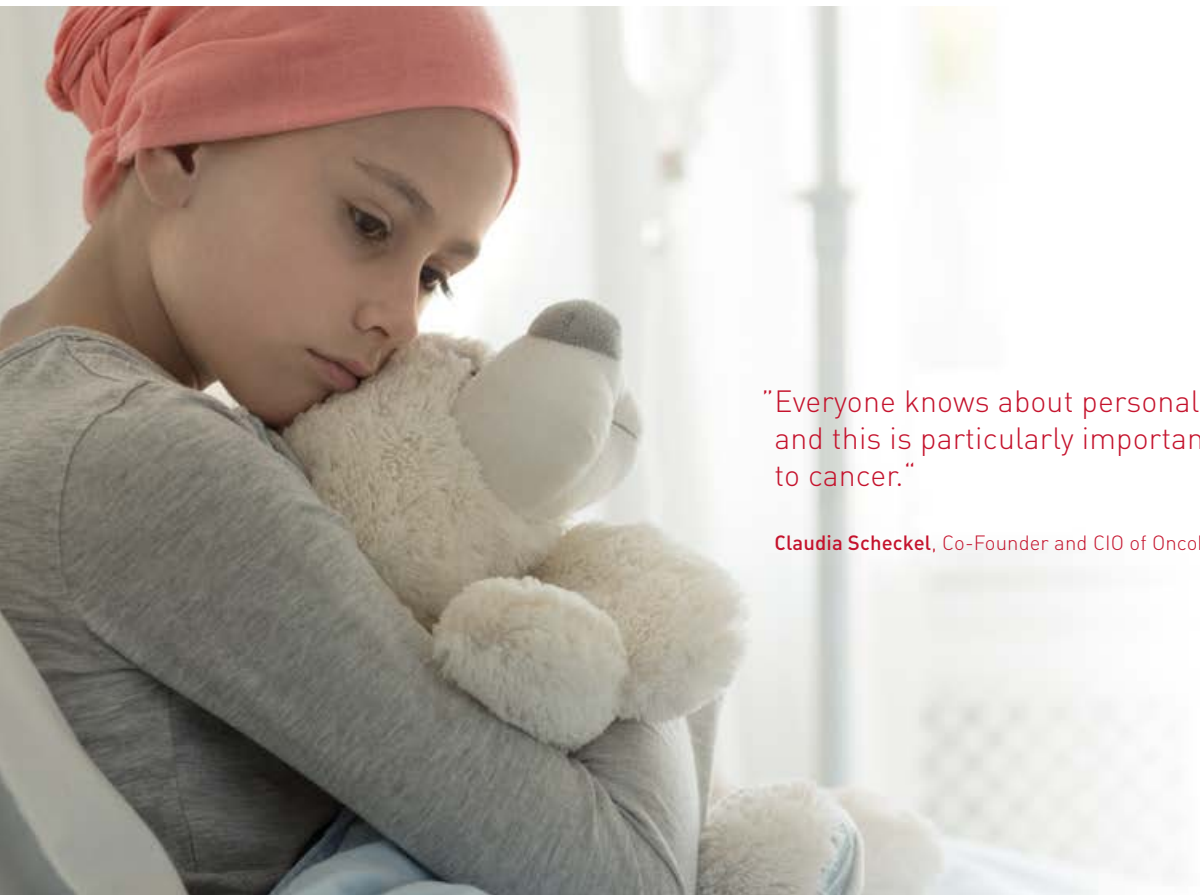
A circular image showing two male scientists in lab coats working together in a laboratory.

Resistell

Developing the world's fastest antibiotic susceptibility test (AST) based on analysis of nano-scale vibrations of living cells.

KICKED IN 2018.
Initiated research project collaboration with Pfizer. Raised several rounds.

KICKING AGAINST CANCER



“Everyone knows about personalized medicine, and this is particularly important when it comes to cancer.”

Claudia Scheckel, Co-Founder and CIO of Oncobit

According to the WHO, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for an **estimated 9.6 million deaths**, or one in six deaths, in 2018.

Lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer are the most common types of cancer in men, while breast, colorectal, lung, cervical and thyroid cancer are the most common among women. The **cancer burden continues to grow globally**, exerting tremendous physical, emotional, and financial strain on individuals, families, communities, and health systems. Many cancers are highly curable if diagnosed early and treated appropriately.

Venture Kick startups advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer – saving lives with groundbreaking solutions.

Claudia Scheckel, Co-Founder and CIO of Oncobit, Déborah Heintze, Co-Founder and CMO of Lunaphore, and Christina Vallgren, Co-Founder & CEO of Terapet talk about their innovations to save lives with groundbreaking solutions, advancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE

KICKING AGAINST CANCER

Araris Biotech
Novel antibody-drug conjugate (ADC)-linker technology allowing for the attachment of any payload to “off the shelf” antibodies without the need of prior antibody engineering.

KICKED IN 2019.
Raised CHF 37 M funding and moving towards clinical development.

deepCDR Biologics
Deep learning in antibody discovery and engineering. Combining three state-of-the-art techniques in protein engineering: gene editing, deep sequencing, and deep learning.

KICKED IN 2019.
Acquired by Alloy Therapeutics in 2021.

InterAx Biotech
Assets for the discovery of functionally selective drugs with improved efficacy and reduced side effects for human receptors.

KICKED IN 2015.
Raised CHF 10 M+ funding, including Boston-based biotech investors.

Invasight
Advanced targeted therapies for invasive cancers. Identify and design specific protein-protein interaction inhibitors (PPIs) for non-traditional intercellular protein targets, which cause cancer cell invasion.

KICKED IN 2019.
Raised CHF 4,5 M in 2022 to accelerate product pipeline development.

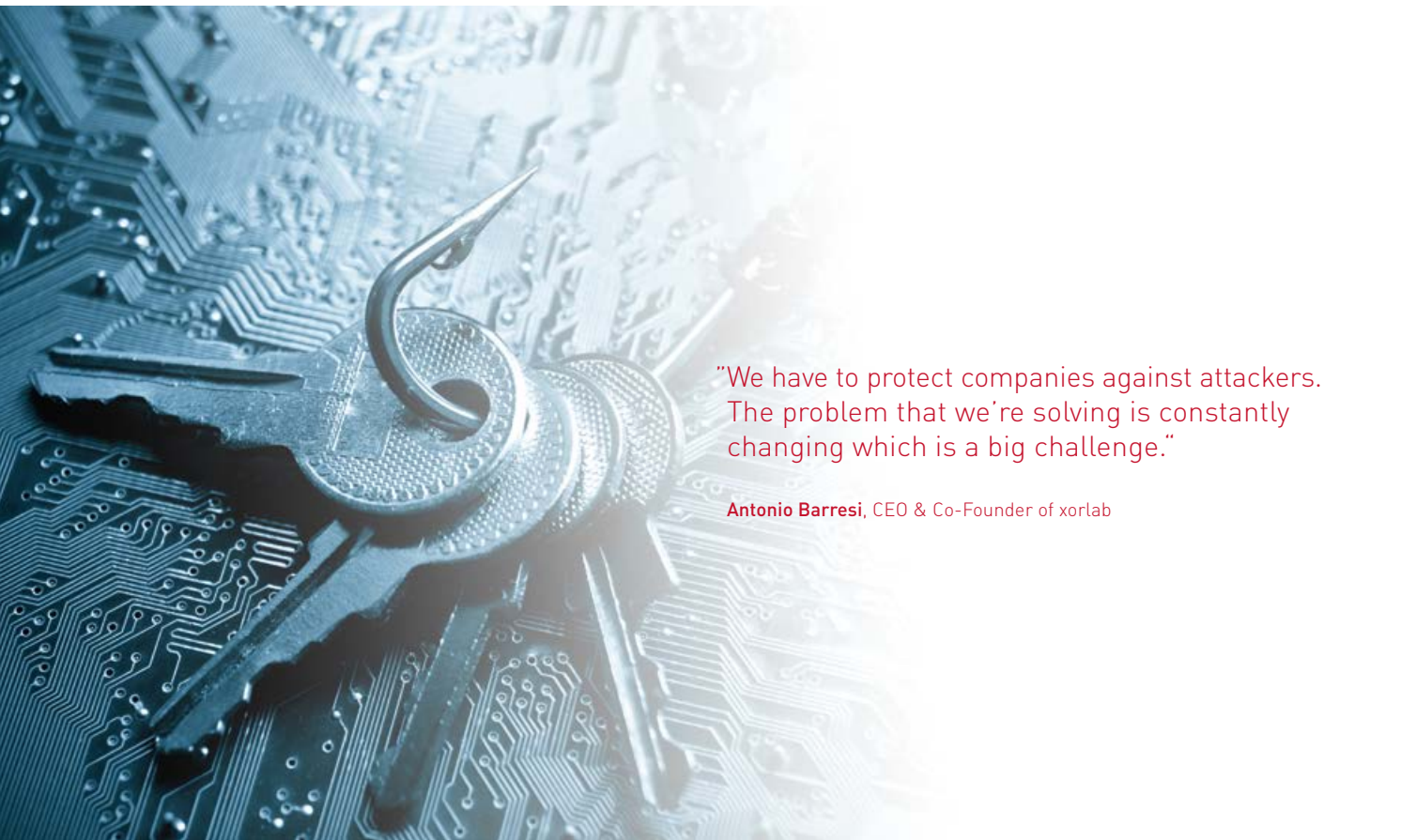
Oncobit
Developing precision diagnostic and monitoring assays for personalized cancer care.

KICKED IN 2021.
Obtained CE marking for its first product focused in melanoma in 2022.

ProteoMedix
Developing markers for the early detection and monitoring of prostate cancer.

KICKED IN 2009.
Raised over CHF 20 M and launched its blood-based test for prostate cancer in 2020.

KICKING AGAINST CYBER THREATS



“We have to protect companies against attackers. The problem that we’re solving is constantly changing which is a big challenge.”

Antonio Barresi, CEO & Co-Founder of xorlab

Digitalization enables groundbreaking achievements and provides us with incredible opportunities.

But our online world also faces new threats: Digital data and infrastructure have become frequent targets for attackers. In 2021, **ransomware attacks occurred every 11 seconds, increased by 1,885%, and cost USD 6 trillion.**

Venture Kick startups provide innovative solutions to prevent, recognize, and respond to cyber threats.

Antonio Barresi, CEO & Co-Founder of xorlab, Sandra Tobler, CEO & Co-Founder of Futuræ Technologies, and David Gugelmann, CEO and Founder of Exeon Analytics talk about their solutions to protect against cyber threats.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE



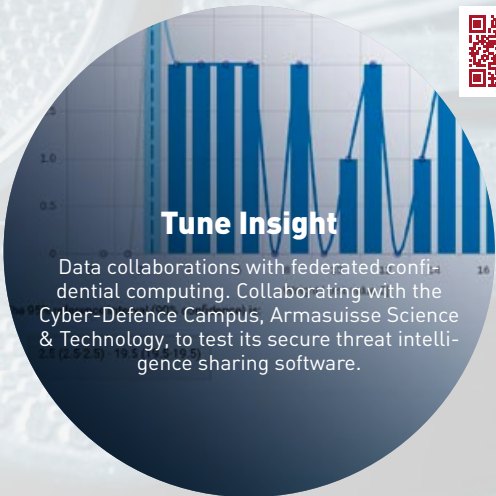
KICKED IN 2016.
Raised CHF 4 M+ in 2021. Serving leading banking and logistics companies in Europe.



KICKED IN 2016.
Raised over CHF 7 M to fuel European expansion, and winning leading neobank qonto as customer.



KICKED IN 2014.
Selected for Venture Leaders Fintech in 2017.



KICKED IN 2021.
Working with leading healthcare consortia for deployment.



KICKED IN 2015.
Acquired by Snapchat in 2017.



KICKED IN 2015.
Ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award from 2016 to 2020.



KICKING FORWARD DIAGNOSTICS



“The main challenge in my industry is the ability to change the habits of physicians.”

Nicolas Durand, Founder & CEO of Abionic

Effective diagnostics are critical for identifying, treating, and preventing diseases accurately and timely.

Medical diagnostic tests encompass a wide variety of physical examinations that can confirm the presence or absence of disease in patients. **Diagnostics support 70 % of healthcare decisions, however, this field accounts for just 2 % of global healthcare funding.** An additional challenge is shifting the mindset of physicians.

Venture Kick startups advance effective diagnostics tests that improve treatments, limit outbreaks, and reduce healthcare costs.

Alexander Nitsch, CEO of OxyPrem, Nicolas Durand, Founder & CEO of Abionic, and Jannis Fischer, Co-Founder & CEO of Positrigo talk about their solutions to advance effective diagnostics tests that improve treatments, limit outbreaks, and reduce healthcare costs.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE





Abionic

Biomedical point-of-care diagnostic device that provides fast and user friendly results for disease areas with the highest unmet medical needs.



KICKED IN 2010.
Raised over CHF 20 M Series C in 2018. Ranked at the TOP Swiss Startup Award from 2013 to 2015.



GreenTEG

Launched the world's first non-invasive and continuous core body temperature monitoring solution aimed at the sports endurance market, branded as "CORE".



KICKED IN 2009.
Enabled world-record for Italian cyclist Filippo Ganna and Ironman world champion Gustav Iden.



OxyPrem

Brain oxygen monitoring in high-risk preterm infants. Placed onto the head of the baby and notifies doctors when oxygen levels move outside the normal range.



KICKED IN 2018.
Granted CHF 2.2 M in 2022 by SERI-funded EIC accelerator.



Positrigo

Cost-effective functional brain imaging for everyone that provides a solution with which hospitals can make five times more functional brain scans on the same space for lower cost than today.



KICKED IN 2018.
Raised CHF 5.5M Series B in 2022.



RetinAI

Developing certified software solutions to enable the right decisions sooner in clinics and pharma, making institutions more efficient with insights and knowledge from data.



KICKED IN 2017.
Closed multi-year agreement with Novartis and established presence in US market.



Resonics

Enabling medically meaningful cough analytics on smartphones. Unlocking the power of sound for medicine by objectively detecting and analysing lung symptoms to warn users about respiratory crises and infections in advance.



KICKED IN 2020.
Customers in Switzerland, Finland, and China.

KICKING FORWARD DIGITAL



“We’ve developed a system to manage all the information on transparency and traceability at scale.”

Justin Picard, Co-Founder & CTO Scantrust

Technology and data science change all aspects of our lives – from communication to research to manufacturing.

To navigate the digital environment, individuals, and organizations need tools and services that enable access, security, and support. **A new challenge facing businesses is how to manage transparency and traceability at scale.** Collecting analytics data on business processes can dramatically increase efficiency.

Venture Kick startups leverage technologies, networks, and data to transform our digital world and support its actors.

Christof Roduner, Co-Founder and CIO of Scandit, Justin Picard, Co-Founder and CTO of Scantrust, and Cristian Grossmann, Co-Founder & CEO of Beekeeper talk about their innovations to leverage technologies, networks, and data to transform our digital world.

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KICKING FORWARD
DIGITAL

Almer Technologies

All day AR-Glasses enabling simultaneous perception of reality and additional virtual information to increase worker productivity by 10%.



KICKED IN 2021.
Began series production in October 2022.

Beekeeper

Digital workplace app connecting and empowering entire workforces anywhere, anytime.



KICKED IN 2011.
Operating across 137 countries.
Raised over CHF 63 M in total.

LogicFlow

AI powered software engineering to automate repetitive tasks. Autonomous end-to-end software testing for web applications.



KICKED IN 2019.
Won key customers in banking and insurance area.

Scandit

Barcode scanning solutions that transform business processes across industries including healthcare, logistics, manufacturing, and retail.



KICKED IN 2009.
Hit unicorn status after raising USD 150 M Series D in February 2022.

Scantrust

Copy-proof QR codes combined with a comprehensive internet of things software platform, fights against counterfeit goods.



KICKED IN 2013.
Built with Cardano the first blockchain supply chain traceability and anti-counterfeit solution.

Seervision

Developing automation tools for live corporate video production.



KICKED IN 2016.
Raised over CHF 10 M to develop international expansion with partners in 23+ countries.

KICKING FORWARD ENERGY EFFICIENCY



"I hope that we finally achieve our net zero objective and completely cut down our reliance on fossil fuels, at least for energy."

Margaux Peltier, Co-Founder & CEO of Enerdrape

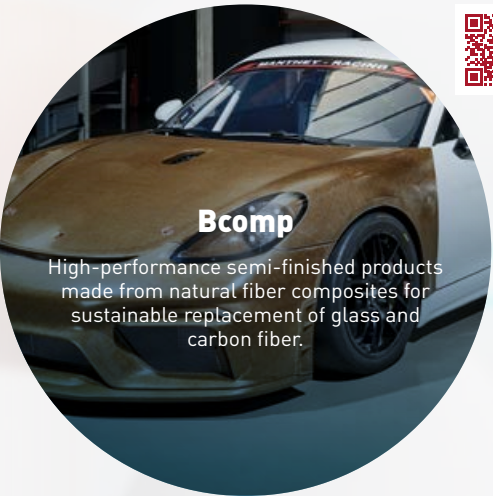
New energy technologies and policies contribute to slowing down climate change and provide **economic and social benefits** for communities.

According to EU Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simon, energy efficiency is a **key concept in the fight against climate change**: it will cut emissions, ease the pressure on the environment, and reduce the need for energy and other resources.

Venture Kick startups optimize energy efficiency, improve renewable energy sources, and advance smart grids to strengthen renewable energy infrastructures.

Remo Waser, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Cowa Thermal Solutions, Margaux Peltier, Co-Founder and CEO of Enerdrape, and Amin Shokrollahi, Co-Founder and CEO of Kandou talk about how their innovations help optimize energy efficiency, improve renewable energy sources, and advance smart grids to strengthen renewable energy infrastructures.

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KICKED IN 2010.
Closed CHF 32M Series B with Tier-A investors in 2022 to accelerate global expansion.



KICKED IN 2008.
Established as world leading system provider for solutions with high-speed drive systems.



KICKED IN 2020.
Products available on the Swiss market since April 2022.



KICKED IN 2020.
Commercial deal for a 250 panel installation with product launch planned in 2023.



KICKED IN 2010.
Operating in Switzerland, UK, US, Japan, Scotland, and Taipei. Raised over CHF 201M in total.



KICKED IN 2017.
Closed seed round to accelerate European expansion.

KICKING AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING



“Everyone wants to go to net zero by 2050, but actually it’s not clear how we can really achieve that.”

Rolf Luchsinger, CEO of TwingTec

Climate change threatens every aspect of life on earth: droughts, water scarcity, wildfires, rising sea levels, and melting polar ice are just some of the dangers that affect our health and safety.

Global warming is an aspect of climate change, referring to the long-term rise of the planet’s temperature. It is caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, mainly from human activities such as burning fossil fuels and farming.

Global warming is increasingly recognized as one of the most pressing issues facing humankind. U.N. SDG Goal 13 focuses squarely on the issue by urging action to combat climate change and its impacts.

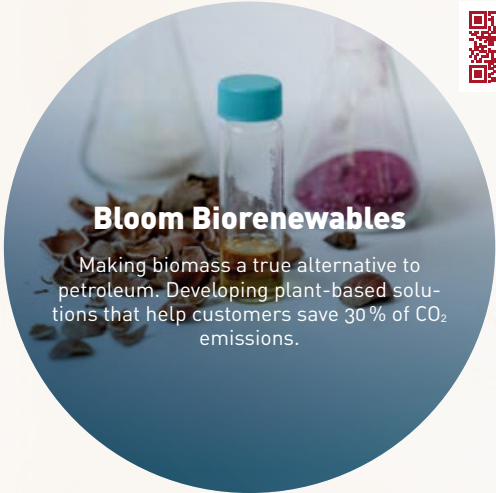
Rolf Luchsinger, CEO of TwingTec, Mario Michan, CEO of Daphne Technologies, and Jan Wurzbacher, Co-CEO of Climeworks, talk about their solutions to change the paradigm of global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions or promoting new renewable energy solutions.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE



KICKING AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING





Bloom Biorenewables

Making biomass a true alternative to petroleum. Developing plant-based solutions that help customers save 30 % of CO₂ emissions.

KICKED IN 2019.
Ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award in 2021 and 2022.



Climeworks

Capturing CO₂ directly from the air and turning it into stone. The permanent removal of excess and legacy CO₂ emissions helps to fight climate change.

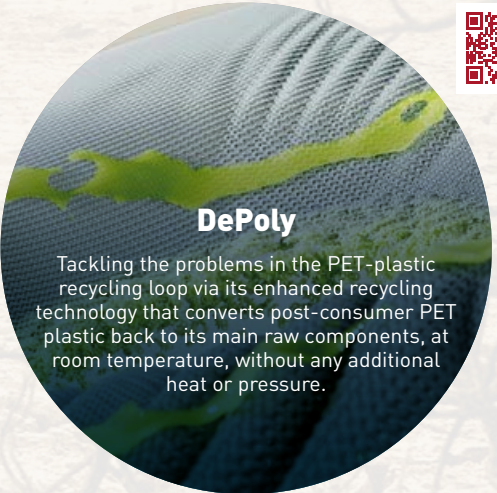
KICKED IN 2009.
Raised CHF 750 M to build the world’s first “negative emissions” plant.



Daphne Technology

Green converter installed onto marine vessels as a plug-and-play solution, to remove toxic pollutants and GHG emissions from engine and boiler exhaust gas.

KICKED IN 2017.
Secured CHF 22 M+, including strategic investments from global leaders.



DePoly

Tackling the problems in the PET-plastic recycling loop via its enhanced recycling technology that converts post-consumer PET plastic back to its main raw components, at room temperature, without any additional heat or pressure.

KICKED IN 2019.
Ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award from 2020 to 2022.



FenX

Turning industrial waste into handy and high-performance insulation panels that are safe, non-flammable, and have a minimal carbon footprint.

KICKED IN 2018.
Raised CHF 2.7 M in 2021.

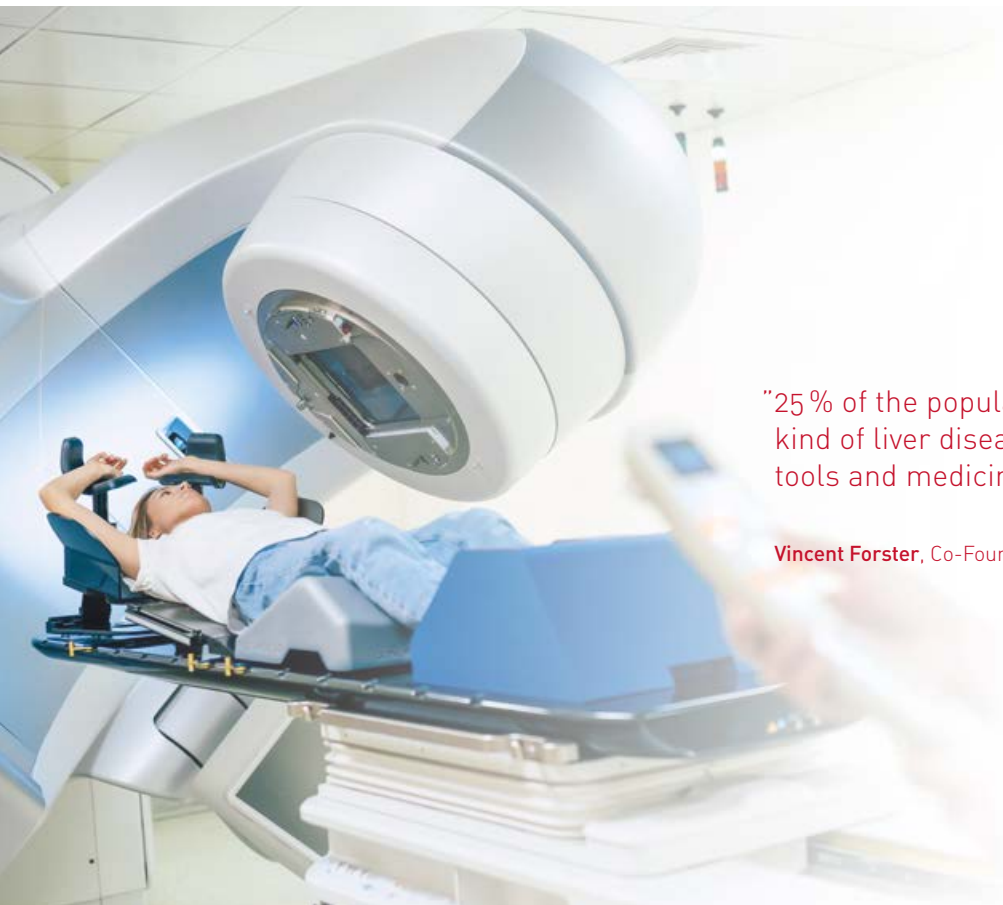


TwingTec

Tethered wings to harvest energy from high altitude winds thanks to energy drone flying like a kite.

KICKED IN 2018.
Raised CHF 2.7 M in 2021 to build production line for market entry.

KICKING FORWARD NEW THERAPIES



“25 % of the population is suffering from some kind of liver disease and we don’t have the right tools and medicine today to tackle that.”

Vincent Forster, Co-Founder and CSO of Versantis

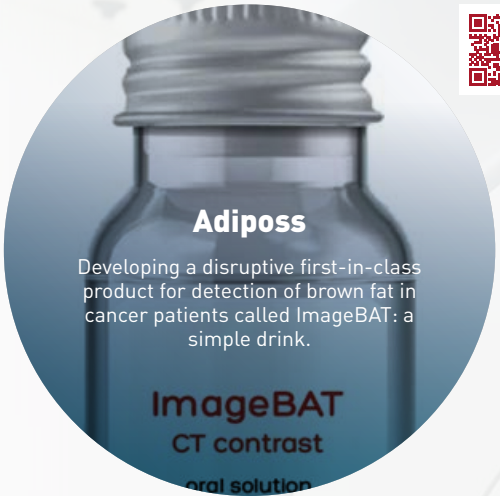
Medical treatments continue to advance, and patients now have **access to more convenient and targeted therapies and medication** with fewer and less severe side effects.

According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, recent scientific discoveries in human genomics and immunology combined with advanced technologies are **revolutionizing the treatment of many illnesses. Personalized medicine can provide targeted therapy to patients and reduce fatalities.**

Venture Kick startups develop new approaches to manage chronic diseases and make therapies more accessible, precise, and personalized.

Daniela Marino, Co-Founder and CEO of Cutiss, Vincent Forster, Co-Founder and CSO of Versantis, and Lukas Langenegger, Co-Founder and CEO of hemotune talk about their new approaches to manage chronic diseases and make therapies more accessible, precise, and personalized. Medical treatments continue to advance, and patients now have access to more convenient and targeted therapies and medication with fewer and less severe side effects.

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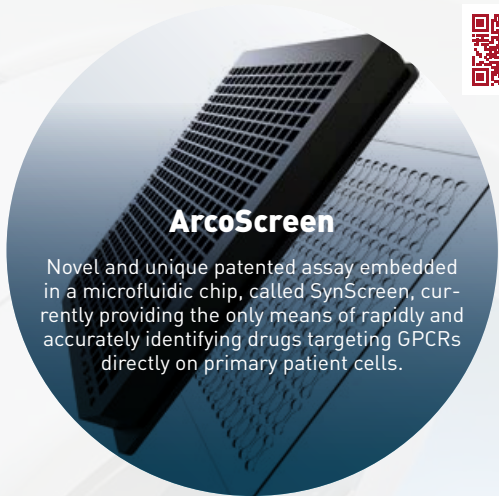


Adiposs

Developing a disruptive first-in-class product for detection of brown fat in cancer patients called ImageBAT: a simple drink.

KICKED IN 2020.

Ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award in 2021 and 2022. Started clinical trials in 2022.



ArcoScreen

Novel and unique patented assay embedded in a microfluidic chip, called SynScreen, currently providing the only means of rapidly and accurately identifying drugs targeting GPCRs directly on primary patient cells.

KICKED IN 2021.

Founder named in the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list.

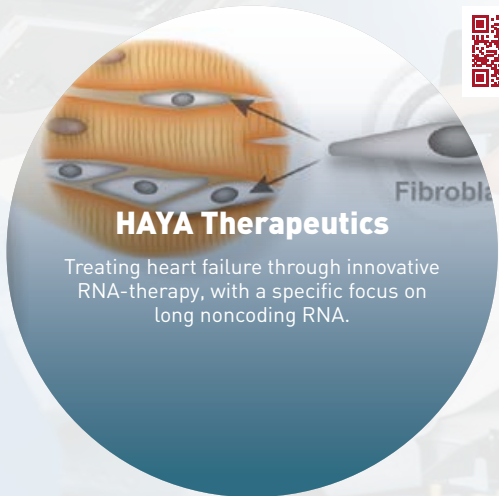


Calciscon

Invented the first blood test to assess calcification-related cardiovascular risk.

KICKED IN 2013.

Raised CHF 2.5 M in 2021 to accelerate European market expansion.



HAYA Therapeutics

Treating heart failure through innovative RNA-therapy, with a specific focus on long noncoding RNA.

KICKED IN 2017.

Raised CHF 22 M seed round and established US presence.

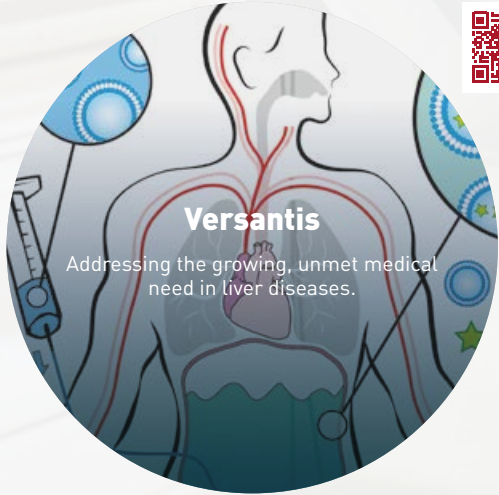


hemotune

Magnetic blood purification allowing specific and direct removal of disease-causing substances from the blood stream of a patient.

KICKED IN 2016.

Raised CHF 7.25 M Series B1 funding in 2022.



Versantis

Addressing the growing, unmet medical need in liver diseases.

KICKED IN 2014.

Acquired by Genfit in September 2022 for up to CHF 105 M.

KICKING FORWARD REHABILITATION



“Our main challenge is coping with the differences between humans and finding out how to create synergy between machine and human.”

Tristan Vouga, Co-Founder and CEO of TWIICE

Rehabilitation slows down and reduces the impact of illnesses or injuries. It refers to the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy.

With people living longer and being affected by chronic diseases, the WHO has identified **rehabilitation as a critical aspect of effective health care**. Examples of rehabilitation challenges faced by clinical practitioners include safety, economic stability, acceleration of recovery, differentiation, the personalization of treatments, and sensorimotor focus.

Venture Kick startups advance personalized rehabilitation technologies and therapies to improve patients’ health and well-being.

Tristan Vouga, Co-Founder and CEO of TWIICE, Vincent Delattre, Co-Founder and VP Business Development of ONWARD, and Iselin Frøybu, Co-Founder and COO of Emovo Care talk about their personalized rehabilitation technologies and therapies to improve patients’ health and well-being. Rehabilitation slows down and reduces the impact of illnesses or injuries. With people living longer and being affected by chronic diseases, rehabilitation plays a critical role in effective health care.

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Emovo Care
Bringing movement home for people with motor impairments. Developing accessible robotic devices, like an active orthosis that enables hemiparetic stroke patients to move their hand at home.

KICKED IN 2019.
Winner Venture Leaders Medtech 2021. Product will get CE marked by 2022.



ONWARD
Enabling nervous system rewiring. Creating innovative therapies to restore movement, independence, and health in people with spinal cord injury.

KICKED IN 2013.
First in human use in 2022. Listed on Euronext Brussels and Euronext Amsterdam in 2021.



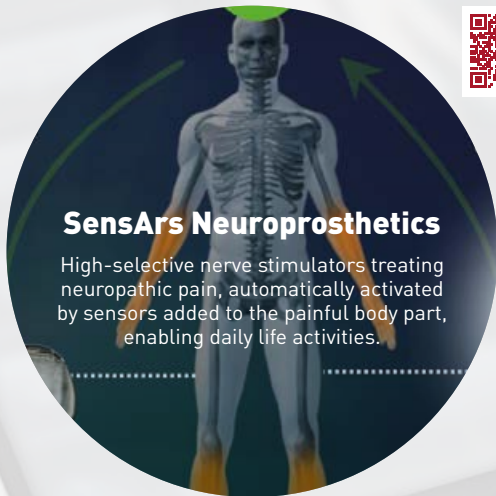
Swiss Motion Technologies
Specialized in 3D printing of silicone applied to orthopedics and prosthetics. Providing the first custom liners in 3D-printed silicone, made from a 3D scan of the patient’s residual limb.

KICKED IN 2017.
Selling around the globe with strong growth.



MYLEG
Improving mobility and prosthesis cognitive integration by restoring sensory feedback in people with leg amputation in their daily life.

KICKED IN 2021.
Winner of the neurotech cup international competition.



SensArs Neuroprosthetics
High-selective nerve stimulators treating neuropathic pain, automatically activated by sensors added to the painful body part, enabling daily life activities.

KICKED IN 2016.
Received FDA breakthrough device designation in 2021.



TWIICE
Powered exoskeletons for walking assistance. TWIICE One is the world’s most advanced powered exoskeleton, enabling its users to stand up and walk again, with the benefits of real-life walking therapy.

KICKED IN 2017.
Medalist in four consecutive Cybathlon and 2022 ODDO BHF young entrepreneurs awards winner.

KICKING FORWARD RENEWABLE ENERGIES



“The biggest challenge is the fast adoption of clean energy, and that’s where we not only have to make sure the government is pushing, but also that people accept it.”

Govinda Upadhyay, CEO of SmartHelio

Renewable energy is essential for creating a sustainable system: hydropower, biofuels, wind, and solar provide efficient alternatives to carbon-intensive energy sources.

One of the greatest contemporary challenges will be **the quick adoption of clean energy.** Our current resources are limited and can no longer be taken for granted.

Venture Kick startups are at the forefront of next-generation renewables and building critical energy infrastructure.

Govinda Upadhyay, CEO of SmartHelio, Laurent Coulot, Co-Founder & CEO of Insolight, and Saurabh Tembhurne, Founder & CEO of SoHHytec talk about their solutions to kick forward renewable energy and provide efficient alternatives to carbon-intensive energy sources.

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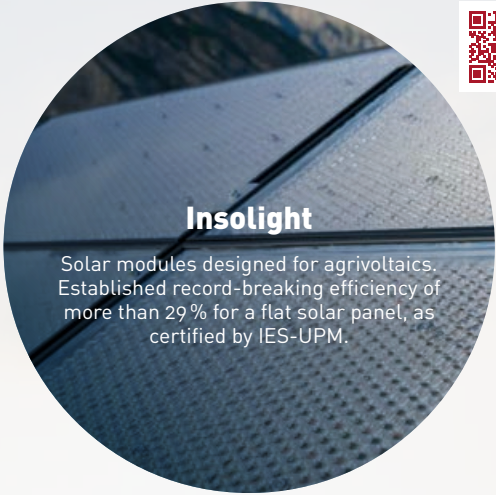
KICKING FORWARD
RENEWABLE ENERGY





GRZ Technologies
Manufacturing hydrogen-based power-to-power systems and thermochemical hydrogen compressors to potentially store large quantities of renewably generated energy.

KICKED IN 2016.
Closed strategic investments with Hyundai and Auto AG group.



Insolight
Solar modules designed for agrivoltaics. Established record-breaking efficiency of more than 29% for a flat solar panel, as certified by IES-UPM.

KICKED IN 2015.
Raised over CHF 20 M in total. Installed agrivoltaic pilot in France in 2022.



Perovskia Solar
Enabling a solar cell on any device. Providing digitally printed, customizable solar cells to OEMs.

KICKED IN 2020.
Launched first consumer device fully powered by custom design perovskite solar cell.



SmartHelio
Doctor of Solar PV plants. Developing a proprietary IoT sensor and intelligent software to keep solar plants healthy and generate more clean energy.

KICKED IN 2019.
Awarded by the renewable energy India expo and the Informa markets in 2022.



SoHHytec
Solar fuel the smarter way. Providing renewable system for onsite production of solar fuel (hydrogen, oxygen) and power (electricity, heat) which is cleaner, greener, and cost-effective.

KICKED IN 2020.
Raised a CHF 2 M seed round early 2022 and winner of the Swisscom startup challenge.



UniSieve
Sustainable separation solutions. Providing a proprietary membrane solution, which allows cost and energy-efficient separation of hydrocarbons including biogas, hydrogen, and CO₂.

KICKED IN 2021.
Raised CHF 4.6 M in 2020 to boost production and commercialisation.

KICKING FORWARD RESEARCH



“The quality of Swiss education and universities is excellent. But the transition from research to innovation and to startup creation could be improved.”

Mathieu Kunzi, Co-Founder and CTO of EarlySight

Research helps us make sense of the world and advances areas such as science, technology, and medicine.

Precision and accuracy are critical for getting valid and consistent results. Harnessing the excellence of Swiss universities, founders are traversing the pipeline from research to innovation to startup creation.

Venture Kick startups advance tools, techniques, and methods that strengthen scientific research and help improve how we live and work.


Mathieu Kunzi, Co-Founder and CTO of EarlySight, Yann Cotte, Co-Founder and CEO of Nanolive, and Georges Muller, Co-Founder and CEO of SEED Biosciences talk about their tools, techniques, and methods that strengthen scientific research and help improve how we live and work

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KICKING FORWARD RESEARCH





Dotphoton
A quantum-inspired startup specialized in raw image data compression for critical applications and AI.



KICKED IN 2017.
Partnership with major players such as Hamamatsu photonics or European Space Agency.



EarlySight
Developing a high-performance eye imaging instrument empowering doctors to see the first disease impacts and enable early detection.



KICKED IN 2020.
Raised CHF 2.4 M in 2021 and launched product in 2022.



Optotune
Offering a range of tunable optical devices helping to develop products with novel key features.



KICKED IN 2007.
Amongst global leaders in optical systems that need dynamic light control.



Scailyte
Providing unprecedented insight into diseases and enabling ultra-sensitive diagnostics by uncovering human's hidden single-cell secrets.



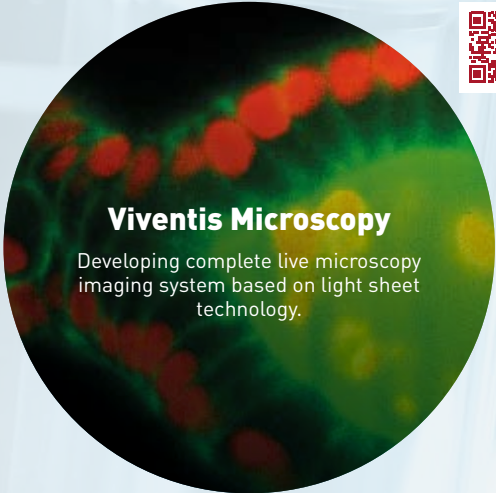
KICKED IN 2017.
Raised CHF 6 M Series A in 2022 to advance immuno-oncology.



SEED Biosciences
Developing DispenCell, an enabler for personalized medicine allowing scientists to isolate single cells reliably and cost-effectively by reducing lab time and validation time.



KICKED IN 2018.
Serving global pharma customers and expanding distribution network in the US.



Viventis Microscopy
Developing complete live microscopy imaging system based on light sheet technology.



KICKED IN 2018.
Commercializing the first product to key customers.

KICKING FORWARD SURGERY



“Surgery is still very oriented in a see-one, do-one, teach-one mode. And that model doesn’t really scale for the future.”

Stefan Tuchs Schmid, Founder and Co-CEO of Virtamed

Surgical procedures confirm diagnoses, alleviate pain and disabilities, and **reduce the risk of death**.

According to the WHO, as injuries and illnesses increase worldwide, the need for surgical intervention continues to grow. **Surgical innovation is fundamental to medical progress and can significantly improve health outcomes**. Cutting-edge startups are kicking forward solutions that are evolving this medical discipline.

Venture Kick startups develop tools and methods to make surgeries more precise, reducing the risk of complications while advancing patients’ health and well-being.

Stefan Tuchs Schmid, Founder and Co-CEO of Virtamed, Michael Friedrich, CEO of Distalmotion, and Guillaume Petit-Pierre, Co-Founder & CEO of Artiria Medical talk about their tools and methods to make surgery more precise, reducing the risk of complications while advancing patients’ health.

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KICKING FORWARD
SURGERY

Artiria Medical

Developing a micro-actuated device allowing to treat vascular diseases with unprecedented accuracy, effectiveness and safety.

KICKED IN 2019.
Raised CHF 3.8M in 2022 and ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award in 2021 and 2022.

CustomSurg

Building the metaverse of orthopaedic implants to enable healthcare to rethink trauma surgery.

KICKED IN 2020.
Winner Venture Leaders Medtech 2021.

Distalmotion

Developing Dexter, a surgical robot that enables every patient in general surgery, gynecology, and urology to access to high-quality, minimally invasive care.

KICKED IN 2011.
Raised USD 90M in 2022 to accelerate global commercialisation.

CardioKit - H2020

Duration: July 2020-June 2023

EBAMed

Combining medical devices for proton therapy and motion tracking imaging and software to enable the treatment of patients in a non-invasive way in a single out-patient session, whilst increasing the patient throughput 5-fold and saving costs.

KICKED IN 2017.
First patient enrolled in EBAMed prospective imaging study in 2021.

Lumendo

Revolutionizing dental root canal treatments by developing easy-to-apply, reliable, and novel products to treat unsolved medical challenges.

KICKED IN 2016.
Raised CHF 5M+ and successfully completed first clinical trial in 2022.

ZuriMED

Specialising in orthopedic biomechanics. Developing a device for surgical knee ligament reconstruction, the BTB-Converter.

KICKED IN 2015.
Ranked at the TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award in 2016.

KICKING FORWARD SUSTAINABLE FOOD



“Everybody knows these days that meat production, classical animal agriculture, has a huge effect on our planet and our climate.”

Pascal Bieri, Co-Founder of planted

According to the United Nations, ensuring food security for the world’s growing population while also protecting the planet requires sustainable food systems.

Every single day, **200 million land animals are slaughtered globally**. Food loss and waste accounts for over **3 billion tons of greenhouses gases per year**. If industrial farming were a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases after the United States and China.

Venture Kick startups help **improve agricultural production, reduce food waste, and ease access to safe food**.

Pascal Bieri, Co-Founder of planted, Olga Dubey, CEO & Co-Founder of AgroSustain, and Francesco Dell’Endice, CEO and Founder of QualySense talk about their solutions to improve agricultural production, reduce food waste, and ease access to sustainable food.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE EPISODE

KICKING FORWARD
SUSTAINABLE FOOD

AgroSustain
A one-stop-shop solution for biological plant. Developing highly effective, natural fungicides and coatings to protect fruits and vegetables from farm to fork.

KICKED IN 2017.
Raised CHF 9.5M and launched first product in 2022.

KITRO
Simplifying food waste management for commercial kitchens. With an IoT device and scale, KITRO automatically captures data on all the food being wasted in commercial kitchens.

KICKED IN 2017.
Nominee for the female innovator of the year 2022.

Luya
Producing flavor loaded plant-based alternative to meat that doesn’t try to be meat, rescuing organic okara and turning it into ready-to-cook slices, chunks and patties.

KICKED IN 2021.
Closed seed round the same year to expand production and enter retail market.

Planted Foods
Producing delicious meat from alternative proteins, focusing on the perfect bite. Pioneering a novel biostructuring approach that combines protein structuring and biotechnology.

KICKED IN 2019.
Raised CHF 115M+. Scaling into several European markets.

QualySense
High-end solutions enable reliable sorting of every single grain, seed or bean using biochemic and geometric properties.

KICKED IN 2009.
Secured CHF 25M+ in funding and established global sales.

SmartBreed
Make the advantages of insects industrially usable and accessible for everyone. Smartbreed offers insect breeders a local and complete breeding solution.

KICKED IN 2020.
Winner of the Swiss Climate Foundation support in 2022.

KICKING FORWARD WOMEN'S HEALTH



“Women’s health has been a neglected topic in industry and science for years. There are huge unmet needs and therefore a lot of room for innovation.”

Loulia Kassem, Co-Founder and CEO of Rea Diagnostics

Women live longer and healthier lives than men on average, but women’s health has long been under-researched and underserved.

The female technology (femtech) industry digitizes women’s health through software, diagnostics, products, and services that address women-centric clinical care and research. Femtech is a booming sector that has become a major investment category and Swiss femtech startups are leaving their international mark in this fast-growing industry.

Venture Kick startups develop services and products that advance women’s health and well-being – beyond reproduction.

Loulia Kassem, Co-Founder and CEO of Rea Diagnostics, Sabrina Badir, Founder and CEO of Pregnolia, and Amélie Bédier, Co-Founder and CEO of Volumina Medical talk about their services and products that advance women’s health and well-being – beyond reproduction.

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ANNAIDA

Developed a groundbreaking device that performs microscopic Nuclear Magnetic Resonance at a scale 10-fold better than existing technologies, enabling non-invasive chemical analysis at the scale of a single human embryo.



KICKED IN 2018.
Raised CHF 3M+ to advance technology development and partnerships.




Aspivix

Modern gynecological products for women’s health. Developing a next-generation suction-based cervical device that delivers the same maneuverability as the tenaculum without the reported patient trauma.




KICKED IN 2017.
Raised CHF 7M+ and received FDA approval for US market.



Ava

Ovulation tracking bracelet. A wearable medical device to accurately and conveniently recognize fertile days and facilitate family planning.



KICKED IN 2014.
Raised CHF 40 M+. Launched product globally. Acquired by Femtec Health in 2022.



Pregnolia

A diagnostic device to accurately predict the risk of premature birth during routine prenatal consultations.



KICKED IN 2015.
Launched in Germany and Switzerland with reimbursement from major Swiss insurances.



Rea Diagnostics

Developing a technology to monitor high-risk pregnancies: a wearable, in the shape of a sanitary pad, that tracks biochemical markers of preterm birth.



KICKED IN 2019.
Winner Venture Leaders Medtech 2022 and listed in Forbes 30 under 30 2022.



Volumina Medical

Developing injectable 3D scaffolds for the reconstruction of volumes of soft tissues. Their first product is addressing the need of breast reconstruction.



KICKED IN 2017.
Secured Series A funding to advance product development.

WHAT THE JURY SAYS

BETTINA ERNST, CEO PRECLIN BIOSYSTEMS



Venture Kick was instrumental in building my own company, so it was a natural step to become a member of the Venture Kick jury myself. There is a high degree of coaching, guidance, and access to an investor and industry network in the Venture Kick program. The discussion and the different views and experiences of the jury members are very important, not only for the decision-making process but also for guiding the companies in building their own business.

By definition, Venture Kick startups bring new ideas to the market. Innovation is necessary and useful in all areas of society. The international expansion of a Swiss startup is indispensable. All jury members naturally have international experience and have expanded their companies internationally. This experience directly benefits the Venture Kick companies. We are seeing more and more entrepreneurs becoming serial entrepreneurs and investors. This dynamic is crucial for the ecosystem. Furthermore, access to additional venture capital in Switzerland should be facilitated and promoted.

LUCA BOLLIGER, VICE PRESIDENT SWISS BIOTECH ASSOCIATION



It was a visionary idea to start Venture Kick! It is an initiative that brings the past and the future together and creates an ecosystem. It is transparent, meritocratic, and unbiased – a great hands-on national platform that brings Switzerland to the world. Igor Fisch introduced me to Venture Kick and I have been part of it ever since. In my opinion, the role of the experts is to provide perspectives, insight into challenges, opportunities, and support entrepreneurs.

Venture Kick is critical, and entrepreneurs need to think about this right from the beginning! Most of the time, Switzerland is not an early adopter of technologies, therefore markets that are more open and larger would be more appealing. I think that the Swiss investor community and government need to step up and stop being followers in sizable investment rounds. In general, more Swiss leadership and money need to go into innovation to be able to fund not only the initial steps but also the full development and commercialization of innovation; currently, companies often move elsewhere after their start, at least in the life sciences. The two other points that we need to work on are digitization and a friendly legal framework to help the adoption of digital to make it useful for all.

ADRIENNE PERRAMOND, ANGEL INVESTOR AT BUSINESS ANGELS SWITZERLAND



At Business Angels Switzerland (BAS), we try to have at least one representative attend every Venture Kick session. My objective as a jury member is, on the one hand, to help the founders by giving them feedback and supporting the ones with potential, and on the other hand to find promising startups that our members at BAS would want to support financially.

Jury consensus comes from listening carefully to the expert jury members in a specific domain and evaluating all the comments regarding our own experience, of course taking into account the objective of the Venture Kick fund. Venture Kick plays a really important role in the Swiss startup ecosystem, through its professionalism in how it is organized and run, in the coaching they offer the founders in preparation for the next stage and in connecting founders to experts in their field. In general, Swiss investors tend to be risk averse so this period of uncertainty does not help. But also it is an opportunity, especially in the cleantech sector, as there is more and more pressure to invest in new energy solutions and ESG in general. Participating in the Venture Kick jury is time-consuming but it's time I gladly take knowing the positive impact on the startups who, at an early stage, need all the help they can get.

FELIX HOLZNER, HEAD OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT HEIDELBERG INSTRUMENTS



In 2011, I was encouraged to submit my worked-out idea to Venture Kick. Eventually, we passed all three phases, got the company growing, and exited in 2018. I was still in contact with Jordi and Beat. When they asked me if I would consider joining the jury I immediately said yes because I just like to think about exciting business cases and because I invest in early-stage startups myself.

The discussions among the Venture Kick jury are always very polite. We usually don't need to find consensus since there is a good grading system in place. We rarely arrive at final discussions when the results are not clear enough, which can then be exciting. The pressure to deliver in terms of business development for the next stage helps the startups. I have been in touch with several startups from my field afterward just to learn a little more and provide some advice. I see the jury sessions as personal education. You always learn about diverse industries with interesting problems you never thought about, as well as innovative solutions and technologies. Winning Venture Kick helps startups get approved for a Venture Leaders program, which is the best thing you can do to grow abroad.

JULIA HALL, INVESTMENT MANAGER OF THE EGS BETEILIGUNGEN AG



The main appeal of being a jury member is having the opportunity to support the next generation of Swiss startups. EGS Beteiligungen AG, a 100% subsidiary of the Ernst Göhner Stiftung, where I work as an Investment Manager, is one of the major Venture Kick sponsors. Venture Kick encourages open discourse and divergent views. There is an objective rating process in place where jury members can rate the presenting startup along a set of criteria e.g., team, management, and business plan. Usually, we see a rough concept in round one, whereas the presentations in round three can be very sophisticated.

The Venture Kick experts provide support with valuable expertise and introductions to successfully launch a product internationally. However, most startups leverage the value of the Swiss ecosystem when it comes to the talent search and attractive economic environment, and many continue to establish their headquarters and key personnel in Switzerland. The Swiss startup ecosystem offers an amazing value proposition and shows tremendous growth potential. We see more and more international investors attracted by Swiss startups and, despite short-term macroeconomic road bumps, we expect long-term growth to foster and keep innovation in Switzerland.

ERIC LOHRER, PARTNER AT LOREDA HOLDING



As a family office and team we want to support startups early on and in a way that accelerates the best combination of idea and team. I felt Venture Kick was a great vehicle to achieve these goals and I wanted to be part of it. Venture Kick provides an opportunity to see the companies early and get an understanding of how they are progressing until they fit our investment criteria. Finally, it is an opportunity to co-invest in deals together.

Eight years ago, we sometimes only had 6 people in the room so it was easier to exchange views but also less deep in terms of analysis and difference of opinion. The Swiss market is simply too small to attract investments unless we expand globally. We need to increase the ability to do CHF 50million+ rounds with local investors and have more entrepreneurs who use their capital and especially experience to support new projects and teams. In addition, to continue to generate great SMEs, the goal needs to be to build the next Nestlé, Roche, Novartis, UBS, or Credit Suisse of the current century to ensure the country continues to enjoy over-proportional success despite its small size and market.



A PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE OF PRIVATE DONORS

Transforming scientific innovation into commercial activity and jobs is the foundation of social and economic prosperity. Early-stage startups bear high risks that aren't covered by public money or private investors. Supporting such seed-stage startups therefore fills a crucial gap and performs a philanthropic role in society.

PURPOSE

Venture Kick aims at promoting entrepreneurship at Swiss universities and kicking off science-based, highly innovative startups. Too often, excellent research ideas are not transferred to the market. Venture Kick helps these great ideas to get funded at the early stage of their development.

LEGAL STRUCTURE

Venture Kick is a philanthropic initiative of a private consortium. Until the end of 2021, Venture Kick was hosted by Fondation des Fondateurs, a charitable umbrella foundation monitored by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board of Foundations (www.fondateurs.ch). In the course of 2021, Venture Kick became part of the newly established charitable Kick Foundation, which is monitored by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board of Foundations (www.kickfoundation.ch).

The board of trustees of the Fondation des Fondateurs, and, from 2022 onwards, of the Kick Foundation, supervises Venture Kick's business activities based on detailed annual reports. The trustees have delegated all strategic and managerial competencies to Venture Kick's strategy board.

VENTURE KICK'S STRATEGY BOARD

The strategy board of successful entrepreneurs and supporting partners' representatives defines Venture Kick's medium- and long-term objectives and strategy. It is composed of Dr. Pascale Vonmont, representing the Gebert Rüf Stiftung; Dr. Suzanne Avedik, representing the Ernst Göhner Stiftung; Philip Bodmer, representing the former Volkswirtschaftsstiftung, and Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, Co-Founder and CEO of InSphero AG, and a former winner of Venture Kick. Dr. Igor Fisch, founder and CEO of Selexis served on the Board until 2021.

POOL OF EXPERTS

Juries of successful investors and proven business experts regularly evaluate Venture Kick applicants' projects at jury sessions. The composition of each jury varies from session to session and is drawn from a pool of experts listed at www.venturekick.ch/jury.

VENTURE KICK MANAGEMENT

Venture Kick's strategy board has mandated Venturelab Ltd. to manage operations. Co-managing directors Beat Schillig, Jordi Montserrat, and Philip Hassler built the program and share responsibility for Venture Kick's successful operation. They are supported by a strong team running the daily startup support operations, selection process, jury sessions, Kickers Camps, promotion activities at Swiss universities and introductions to national and international investors.



15 YEARS OF KICKING AT A GLANCE



KICKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, the mission of Venture Kick remains more necessary than ever. Enabling driven entrepreneurs to realize their vision is an essential step in bringing much needed innovation to the world. The entrepreneurs are present – the number of entrepreneurs applying for support has kept rising over the years – and the impact is strong, as the numbers and testimonies illustrate. The entire team behind Venture Kick is committed to continue and is already looking forward to celebrating 20 years of Venture Kick success.

Venture Kick’s major challenge is to secure sustainable funding for the coming years. In addition to existing commitments, we constantly seek further financing to leverage the full value of Swiss universities’ growing innovation potential and to respond to the increase in high-quality applications seen in recent years.

Foundations, private individuals, and companies are invited to join Venture Kick’s successful initiative as donors helping to bridge this financing gap.



“We are overwhelmed by the success of our Venture Kick alumni and proud to see that some of them have a real and significant impact to make the world a better and more sustainable place. Let’s keep kicking!”

Beat Schillig, Co-Managing Director Venture Kick



“When we see what we were able to accomplish in 15 years, we feel our mission has just started. More than ever, entrepreneurs and innovation are needed to tackle crucial societal challenges, which we’re best equipped to support.”

Jordi Montserrat, Co-Managing Director Venture Kick



“We are grateful to our supporters – past, present and future – for enabling us, the jury, the Venture Kick community of alums, and the investors to support the best entrepreneurial talents from Swiss universities.”

Philip Hassler, Co-Managing Director Venture Kick

20-YEAR GOALS

In 2027, we want to celebrate 20 years together, with 1,000 active Venture Kick startups – among them several unicorns and global leaders in their markets – counting 20,000 employees.

- **1,000**
active high-tech companies
- **20,000**
high-quality and sustainable jobs created
- **CHF 12,000,000,000**
of investment raised by Venture Kick alumni
- **CHF 3,000,000,000**
annual revenue produced by these companies

6,300,000

**TO GIVE 178 KICKS TO STARTUPS IN 2023 AND BRING SWISS
DEEPTech TO GLOBAL MARKETS**

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has provided 917 Swiss university spin-offs with CHF 44.85 million in seed capital. To date, 718 of them have been incorporated, creating 11,362 jobs. These startups have attracted CHF 6.7 billion in extra investment.

The private initiative Venture Kick is financed by:

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www.venturekick.ch