Startup capital for female founders
New approaches in pathogen control and same-day delivery.

Aike Festini and Olga Dubey have one thing in common: their startups have each received startup capital of CHF 130,000 from the Venture Kick national support program.

Funded by businesses and individuals, the national startup support program Venture Kick links a startup competition with tailor-made management support and financial support in an internationally unique manner. Now, for the first time since its launch in 2007, two startups, which have each received the maximum prize money of CHF 130,000, have female CEOs.

“Thanks to the prize money from Venture Kick, we can now really get started” says Olga Dubey from the Lausanne startup AgroSustain. The molecular biologist will be able to hire a second full time employee and finance the certification of her novel biocide. Dubey runs her business with her two co-founders Jean-Pascal Aribot and Sylvain Dubey. At the Winterthur logistics platform LuckaBox, two women are at the wheel: CEO Aike Festini and co-founder Maite Mihm. They got going in the middle of last year and in parallel used Venture Kick’s management support. “For me,” says Festini, “the support of Venture Kick’s experts was no less important than the prize money.”

LuckaBox, Winterthur: innovative logistics platform

The ‘platformisation’ of the economy is progressing and has now reached the delivery industry. The Winterthur start-up company LuckaBox has established a platform that brings together the express delivery capacity available in a city at any given time and makes it available to retailers in real time. The underlying algorithm assesses the reliability, pricing and performance of each courier and on request calculates the best combination for a job. LuckaBox’s market launch has been successful: among its first customers are well-known companies such as Jelmoli and IT distributor Steg.

www.luckabox.ch

AgroSustain, Nyon (UNIL): sustainable pathogen control

The UN estimates that globally food worth CHF 1,000 billion is thrown away each year, with pathogenic fungi causing damage of CHF 100 billion alone, mainly in fruit and vegetables. Nevertheless, no sustainable remedy exists on the market today. That could now change: start-up AgroSustain has developed a method to detect plant-based toxins against some of the most common agronomical fungi. The first product from the University of Lausanne spin-off is based on two natural plant extracts and extends the shelf life of vegetables, berries, fruit and cut flowers by at least a week.

www.agrosustain.ch
About Venture Kick

The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides up to CHF 130,000 to seed stage startups. In addition, it offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path towards building a winning business. Startups present in front of a jury at three different stages to obtain funding as well as direct feedback and access to an international network of successful entrepreneurs and investors.

Since 2007, 530 Swiss startup projects have received CHF 21.66 million from Venture Kick. This has resulted in more than 414 incorporated companies creating 4,748 jobs. Startup companies supported by Venture Kick have attracted CHF 1.808 billion from investors so far, and 55 startups from Venture Kick have made it into the TOP 100 Swiss Startups 2017.

In 2018, Venture Kick will pay out CHF 3.2 million to idea-stage startup projects to bring Swiss science to global markets. More information in the Venture Kick annual report.

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venturekick.ch

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