Embargoed Press Release. Embargoed until Wednesday December 19th, 11:00 a.m.

St. Gallen / Zürich / Lausanne, December 19th, 2018

Venture Kick has 4.35 Million for 75 Startups in 2019

Venture Kick’s successful growth continues, with 600 spin-offs from Swiss universities receiving 25 million francs in seed capital since 2007. Next year 36 percent more money – 4.35 million francs – will be available for 75 innovative, new projects. This record amount accompanies a new support model that will offer as much as two tranches of 150,000 francs for each startup.

Venture Kick has proven to be an effective program to launch and support successful spin-offs in Switzerland. Over the past 11 years juries of successful entrepreneurs and investors have chosen 600 startup projects from more than 3,400 applications. The competitive, three-stage acceleration program has invested 25 million Swiss francs in seed capital. Most supported projects incorporate, with 80 percent surviving their critical first years. To date these startups have raised more than two billion francs from investors and created north of 5,000 jobs!

“We see an increase in the quality of applications every year. This was particularly noticeable this year, as several high-quality startups couldn’t be supported within the 2018 budget,” said Pascale Vonmont, who presides Venture Kick’s strategy board. The philanthropic Venture Kick Foundation has been supported by a private consortium since its inception. “I’m delighted that all key partners share the need to continue this successful program, and have maintained or increased their donations.”

Kicking-off 2019 with a new support model

Venture Kick plans for 18 juries to select 75 winners in 2019. At stage 2 Venture Kick will offer winners 40,000-franc convertible loans, at startup-friendly conditions. At stage 3 winners will be offered 100,000-franc convertibles, again at friendly terms. These loans will come on top of the 10,000-franc cash grants that winners receive at stage 1.

“Convertible loans will give entrepreneurs more flexibility as they raise additional capital from investors,” Venture Kick’s co-managing director Beat Schillig said. “And the increase to 40,000 francs, from 20,000, at stage 2 will strengthen their business development and accelerate their market validation. This is critical to convince investors.”

Venture Kick’s maximum support therefore increases to 150,000 francs. Candidates passing stage 1 can qualify for an additional grant of 150,000 francs from Gebert Rüf Stiftung’s InnoBooster program, thus offering Swiss startups as much as 300,000 francs in seed financing.

Much more than just money

Juries comprising experienced venture capital investors and successful entrepreneurs provide an invaluable network for Venture Kick startups. Every jury asks tough questions and gives direct feedback. Between jury sessions Kickers Camps provide hands-on business support for those selected for the next stage.

www.venturekick.ch – info@venturekick.ch

Venture Kick fund
Fondation des Fondateurs, Kirchgasse 42, 8001 Zurich

Venture Kick offices
Venture Kick c/o Venturelab, startup space, Wiesenstr. 5, 8952 Schlüerlen-Zürich, +41 (71) 242 98 68
Venture Kick c/o Venturelab, EPFL Innovation Park, Building C, CH-1015 Lausanne, +41 (21) 533 09 80
“Kickers Camps give very targeted help, discussing specific cases. You leave the bootcamp with a complete recipe of what to do next, the precise milestones and the strategy to implement,” said Resistell AG chief executive Danuta Cichocka, whose Basel-based company is developing a faster tool to identify which antibiotics will treat infections best. “The quality of the network is extremely high, half of the investors in our seed round came from the Venture Kick jury.”

Venture Kick is on a mission
The team behind Venture Kick has set themselves high goals. “The new model supports our ‘Mission 2027’: Our target is to create a portfolio of 1,000 high-tech startups in Switzerland, generating 15,000 jobs, with total revenue exceeding 2.7 billion francs,” said Jordi Montserrat, Venture Kick’s co-managing director. Recent headlines about Venture Kick alumni show the program is well on track: in the last few months startups Amal Therapeutics, Ava, Climeworks and Scandit closed financing rounds exceeding 30 million each.

About Venture Kick
The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides seed stage financing to Swiss startups. In addition, it offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path towards building a winning business. Startups pitch to expert juries at each stage to obtain funding, gaining direct feedback and access to an international network of successful entrepreneurs and investors.
Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 600 Swiss startup projects with 24.86 million francs. The program of financial support, training and network, has led to the creation of more than 445 companies and more than 5,000 jobs. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted a total of 2 billion francs, and represented 55 percent of companies ranked in the TOP 100 Swiss Startups 2018.
The Venture Kick Foundation is supported by Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Hauser-Stiftung, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Martin Haefner, Igor Fisch, Fondation Pro Techno, Rising Tide Foundation, ESA BIC Switzerland, Engagement Migros and Swisscom.
venturekick.ch
Follow the success stories of our Venture Kick Alumni on Facebook, Twitter und LinkedIn.

Interview requests - please contact the co-managing directors
French or English: Jordi Montserrat +41 78 708 18 04
German or English: Beat Schillig +41 79 358 04 19

Media contacts
English / German Joseph Heaven +41 78 900 7589 <joseph.heaven@venturelab.ch>
French / English Guillaume Tinsel +41 21 533 0980 <guillaume.tinsel@venturelab.ch>

www.venturekick.ch – info@venturekick.ch
Venture Kick fund
Fondation des Fondateurs, Kirchgasse 42, 8001 Zurich
Venture Kick offices
Venture Kick c/o Venturelab, startup space, Wiesenstr. 5, 8952 Schlieren-Zürich, +41 (71) 242 98 68
Venture Kick c/o Venturelab, EPFL Innovation Park, Building C, CH-1015 Lausanne, +41 (21) 533 09 80