VENTURE KICK OFFICES

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Fondation des Fondateurs
Venture Kick
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2019 was another successful year for Venture Kick. The need and utility of our pre-seed program was demonstrated again, as our alumni companies raised CHF 3.5 billion in capital and created 7,000 new jobs by year end. Our mission to increase the number of high-quality startups in Switzerland continues.

Venture Kick has one key vision: we want to make a relevant contribution to increase the number of high-potential startups and accelerate their market entry and growth. We kick startup ideas to global success with all the necessary support for the founders to advance their business.

This entrepreneurial mindset applies equally to Venture Kick as an initiative. We constantly strive to improve and grow our value for founders. In 2019 we implemented our new model offering convertible loans of up to CHF 150,000 per startup and increased the financial support to CHF 4.35 million. The new model was very well perceived, as it simplified and accelerated the process for startups.

In 2020, we will not only increase the total support amount for startups to CHF 5 million, which will enable us to boost 80 new projects. Also, with a pilot project we aim to strengthen the startup and innovation ecosystem in Switzerland. ‘Venture Kick Life Science’ is a special track for biotech and medtech, both key assets of our country. This track allows us to leverage the support, network and visibility for life science projects. We start the year with specific jury sessions for stages 2 and 3, and will evolve this pilot over time. On top of this we plan to give more visibility to our deep tech startups that provide relevant technological solutions for a sustainable environment and the nutrition of tomorrow.

Venture Kick is walking the talk. We constantly kick ourselves in order to offer the best possible support for our founders. Venture Kick’s work is made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our jury members, the passion of our management team, as well as the courage and vision of the entrepreneurs at the heart of our initiative.

On behalf of the Venture Kick board we thank all of you for your engagement to bring greater prosperity to our Swiss economy and society.
GROWING IMPACT

675 Startup Projects Kicked
Number of Supported Startup Projects (Cumulated)

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<td>404</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>600</td>
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7,000 Jobs Created
Number of Active New Jobs (Cumulated in Full Time Equivalents)

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<td>600</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1,347</td>
<td>1,898</td>
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CHF 3.5 Billion Raised
Financing Volume Attracted (Cumulated in CHF millions)

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<td>675</td>
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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 start-ups struggle when they try to move from the lab to the marketplace.

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 high-tech entrepreneurship.

Global impact

Venture Kick’s impact in Switzerland is considerable: since 2007, we have supported 675 spin-off projects that have become 519 high-tech companies. These have created 6,967 active jobs and attracted investment totaling CHF 3.5 billion. The TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award included 54 of them in its most-recent ranking.

Supported startups continue to improve our world, for example scaling efficient clean energy technology, bringing treatments for global health priorities to market, and developing the diagnostic tools of the future. Insolight SA has transferred space-grade technology to make rooftop solar panels that achieved world-record, 29-percent efficiency. The founders will scale their production for industrial manufacturing next. BioVersys AG, developing truly novel antibacterial drugs that overcome resistance, has won the equivalent of more than CHF 16 million this year to boost its programs tackling tuberculosis (one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide) and hospital-acquired infections. Abionic SA has developed a sepsis test that gives hospitals the vital diagnosis 24 hours faster than prevailing technology. Or RetinAI Medical AG, whose expertise in artificial intelligence unlocks eye health today and heralds the potential for early diagnosis of brain and heart conditions in the future.

Our highlights (pages 8 to 21) share other such examples, and give you an insight into the bold visions of the founders behind these Swiss startups. In enabling their innovations to become sustainable solutions for global problems lies the core of our mission.
An Holistic 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. To ensure the best ideas progress, founders know every pitch-session is tough: only half the projects presenting can win support 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 has been a great experience for us, it’s considered a quality stamp in Switzerland and worldwide. We have received new investors, are getting lots of exposure and our network is only growing!”

Jeyran Hezaveh, AVAtronics Sàrl, Venture Kick 2019

Venture Kick’s unique program of competitive pitches interspaced by 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.

“Having Venture Kick believe in you and support your idea was an essential advantage in the early stages. The program’s three stages really supported us in becoming what LuckaBox is and getting us where we are today. Winning our first funding from Venture Kick set the tone for all the future investments that came.”

Aike Festini, LuckaBox Logistics AG, Venture Kick 2018
A Unique Entrepreneurial and Philanthropic Model

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

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 that have benefited from the program assist future generations!

“Venture Kick was the first believer in our team, technology, and vision. The whole Venturelab team provided huge support since the inception of the Versantis. Besides the funding, their critical guidance to successfully grow our startup into a mature biotech company was key.”

Vincent Forster, Versantis AG, Venture Kick 2015

“The very-concrete feedback helped us improve immensely. It’s also valuable to network with fellow founders at similar stages in completely different fields. They have the same problems, so we exchanged ideas, learned from each other and stay in touch.”

Claudia Hoessbacher, Polaron Technologies AG, Venture Kick 2019

Founders can receive as much as CHF 150,000 in pre-seed capital from Venture Kick, and successful candidates qualify in addition for Gebert Rüf Stiftung’s InnoBooster program, which can give Swiss startups a further CHF 150,000.

To date 675 Venture Kickers have benefited from this boost, adding a total of CHF 29,250,000 to their seed funding!
Our Kickers hit higher levels in 2019, raising multi-million investment rounds, winning international awards and prizes, sealing major commercial partnerships with industrial leaders, and exiting at strong valuations. It was pleasing to see alums conduct their own M&A with spine neurostimulation startup GTX Medical (2014) merging to extend its technology into the U.S.; while carbon-capture leader Climeworks AG (2010) bought a complementary startup to strengthen its portfolio of direct air capture technology.

Raising rounds of 15+ million

Zurich-based Beekeeper AG (2011) raised $45 million to expand its team in Europe and the U.S. Beekeeper, one of the world’s fastest-growing SaaS startups, aims to transform the way two billion frontline employees work by improving communication with the non-desk workforce.

Polyneuron Pharmaceuticals AG (2015) raised CHF 22.5 million from famous French and U.S. investors. The Basel life-science startup’s pioneering therapeutic approach treats autoimmune diseases of the nervous system, where a patient’s immune system erroneously attacks its own body. Polyneuron will use the investment to fund human clinical trials of its new class of treatments to prevent rare autoimmune diseases.

Satellite and aerospace antenna-maker SWISSto12 SA (2011) raised CHF 18.1 million to accelerate the industrialization and the commercial deployment of its space-ready, 3D-printed components. The Renens-based startup will continue expansion of offices in the U.S. and Israel, and explore opportunities in the terrestrial 5G communications market.

After a period of growing commercial traction and expansion into more than 10 countries, Teralytics AG (2013) raised $17.5 million to expand its analysis to more than a billion human journeys. The global leader in multi-modal mobility intelligence uses telecom network data to help cities and transport services better understand, predict and improve people’s journeys worldwide.

BioVersys AG (2008) won the equivalent of more than CHF 16 million in funding to boost its programs tackling tuberculosis and hospital-acquired infections. Tuberculosis, one of the top ten causes of death worldwide, is carried by billions and currently kills more people each year than HIV/AIDS.

Versantis AG (2015) raised CHF 16 million to develop its liver cirrhosis therapy. Globally, 850 million people live with a liver disease and 2 million die every year. No drugs are yet approved to support cases of decompensated cirrhosis, which is driven by today’s high-calorie diets and sedentary lifestyles.
Two smaller financing rounds show the potential of two medtechs focusing on early diagnosis of common dangers.

ProteoMedix (VK 2010) raised CHF 5.2 million for its prostate cancer blood test, and Pregnolia (VK 2016) closed a CHF 3.25 million round for its device to predict the risk of premature birth.

Kandou Bus SA (2011) took its total fund-raising close to $100 million with a 56-million-dollar round to prepare the fabless semiconductor startup for an IPO. Kandou’s technology reduces the power consumption and increases the speed of electronic devices. Switzerland’s global leader in connectivity IP and chip solutions will use the funds to finish its first standalone chip, scheduled to go to volume production for the consumer market in 2020, and build the commercial team before a stock market listing.
Raising rounds of 5 to 15 million


Important Industry Deals

Biotech leader Genentech will use **Abionic SA** (2010)’s diagnostics for point-of-care asthma tests in the U.S. Of the 25 million people suffering from asthma in the U.S., most have allergic asthma and its is one of the most common long-term diseases in children. Abionic’s five-minute test will allow physicians to start personalized treatment for patients immediately.

**XING** deploys **Uepaa AG** (2012)’s mobile peer-discovery software to allow users of the business networking service in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to discover professional connections in their close physical proximity, without using energy-draining and imprecise GPS functions.

Europe’s largest robo-advisor, **Scalable Capital**, selected **Futurae Technologies AG** (2017)’s zero-touch, multi-factor authentication to integrate into its digital wealth-managers software.

**SpiroChem AG** (2011) partners with the U.K.’s Domainex, a world-leader in fragment-based drug discovery, to offer a comprehensive discovery proposal from library design and screening to efficient downstream medicinal chemistry services, and to candidate selection.

**Aleva Neurotherapeutics SA** (2008) formed a joint venture with **DIXI Medical** to develop a new generation of epilepsy treatment, using the Swiss startup’s unique technology for electrodes that allow precise stimulation of the deep brain.
Selected Awards


Michela Puddu, CEO and Chairwoman of Haelixa AG (2017), won the European Commission’s Rising Innovator Award. Her startup may make a critical contribution to several U.N. Sustainable Development Goals with its in-product technology to trace consumer goods reliably throughout the supply chain.


IN Voli SA [2017] co-founder Mélanie Guittet won the PERL (Prix Entreprendre Lausanne Région) trophy. Her startup builds software and hardware to monitor low-altitude air traffic, and make the sky safe for drones and other airspace users right down to the ground. IN Voli has already deployed its micro control towers on telecom infrastructure across more than 10,000 square kilometers in Switzerland.

Exits

The biggest exit for a Swiss startup in 2019 was AMAL Therapeutics SA (2012)’s acquisition by Boehringer Ingelheim for as much as €425 million. The sale to the German pharmaceutical giant heralds a transformational step in the future treatment of cancer, as the University of Geneva spin-off’s KISIMA immunotherapy and cancer-vaccine platform will help treat patients with gastrointestinal and lung cancers.

Precision for Medicine bought SimplicityBio SA (2015) to add the Swiss artificial intelligence to the U.S. company’s multiomic data integration and informatics platform. The acquisition will accelerate the impact of AI in medicine.

Bullard bought Darix Sàrl (2017) for its technology that helps firefighters see through smoke. The acquisition by the fifth-generation family-owned U.S. company, will transform Lausanne-based Darix into the Bullard Technology Center.

Giving Back

Venture Kick alums, SwissLitho AG (2012) and Scope Content AG (2011)’s generous founders, boosted the resources available for the next generation of Switzerland’s entrepreneurs with donations to the Venture Kick Foundation.
Each month jury members, selected from a pool of more than 160 startup experts in Switzerland, evaluate about 16 startup projects, over three separate jury sessions. This adds to 403 jury sessions over the past 12 years, with juries having reviewed 2,207 entrepreneurial ideas and chosen the strongest cases to support. In addition to seed funding, the selected startups have received introductions to investors and hands-on coaching at 431 Kickers Camps.

This multi-faceted support has a demonstrable impact. To date, the 675 supported spin-off projects have led to 519 incorporations representing 6,967 jobs. At this year’s TOP 100 Swiss Startup Award the ranking was again packed with Venture Kick alums – 54 this year, including 7 of the TOP 10 positions.

High survival rate and strong growth

Statistics show that more than 50 percent of startup projects cease activity within their first five years. The Venture Kick population has a much higher survival rate. From the 675 projects supported between 2007 and 2019, only 27 percent (183) have stopped. Of these, 93 have ceased while still at the project phase, meaning only 90 disappeared following incorporation.

As for job creation, we see that Venture Kick startups begin growing strongly four years after incorporation. Most startups use the first years to get their technology market-ready and win investors before they hire staff. The companies that started between 2007 and 2011 have created on average 31 jobs each to date.

The data shows the jury does a good job in selecting the best startups. Of the 150 companies that received all funding stages, only 14 have ceased (9 percent) and the remaining 136 have created an average of 23 jobs. Even the Venture Kick startups that don’t reach the final stage are stronger than average – of the 226 companies that received only the stage 1 support, 176 are active, with an average of 12 jobs created.

Attractive investment opportunities and acquisition targets

Venture Kick startups have demonstrated their ability to win substantial investments, having attracted CHF 3.48 billion to date. Equity investments from business angels and venture capitalists (a cumulative CHF 1.91 billion) are by far the biggest source of financing (55 percent). Venture Kick startups also have proven to be attractive acquisition targets for industry leaders with transactions & exits amounting to CHF 1.04 billion up to date.

Looking at the investment per active startup, the amount is low during the first four years (an average of CHF 1.33 million), then grows rapidly in the following years. Venture Kick startups supported between 2012 and 2015 already report attracting an average of CHF 5 million in investment, while this number is quadrupled for the older companies from 2007 to 2011 having attracted on average CHF 20.86 million in funding each.

The 136 startups that received Venture Kick’s maximum support have so far raised a total of CHF 1.26 billion, an average of CHF 9.23 million per startup. The stage 2 startups have slightly outperformed those in stage 3 raising an average of CHF 9.71 million, mainly due to the CHF 470 million exit of Amal Therapeutics.

118X Investment Multiplier

Venture Kick’s cumulated CHF 29.25 million of support has triggered CHF 3.48 billion of investment into these startups. That’s the equivalent of CHF 118 invested by others, for each franc of pre-seed money from Venture Kick.
### Total Money Invested 2007 – 2019

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Money Invested</th>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>243,000,000</td>
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### Equity Investment

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### Jobs Created Per Active Startup

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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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### Total Investment Per Active Startup

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<td>2012</td>
<td>5,001,000</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>20,856,000</td>
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### Equity Transactions & Exits

- 30% Awards
- 10% Grants
- 3% Loans
- 55% Equity

### Active Startups

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<th>Incorporation Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016 – 2019</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<td>2012 – 2015</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007 – 2011</td>
<td>69%</td>
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### Support Stage

- Stage 1: 78%
- Stage 2: 82%
- Stage 3: 91%
Alongside a degree in Geology, you have a PhD in Cosmochemistry and researched the evolutions of planets. How did your path in the construction industry and MOBBOT start?

I drifted from the science and academic world to construction materials and commercial strategy with Holcim, one of the world biggest cement supplier. I had worked in the construction industry for a dozen years, and in my last job I was leading the product development for a large, precast-manufacturer, when I read an article about 3D-printing and thought ‘This is really awesome! It would be great if we could do the same with concrete.’

In 2014, while searching for new, higher-margin products I started developing 3D-concrete printing. Initially it was an answer to my own need as a ‘product developer’ to provide fast and flexible solutions for construction companies – to satisfy many customers’ requests for special elements that couldn’t be met by traditional fabrication methods.

In 2017, I could feel the wind of change and digitalization coming in the construction industry, and stars were aligned: I had the business case, the customer problem, the business solution and the right timing. What I was missing was the right technology, so I quit my job in 2017 and launched my startup with the aim to democratize 3D-concrete printing and invent a new way of producing concrete elements. The MOBBOT venture started in March 2018.

You joined in Venture Kick in 2018 and won the finale in 2019. How did that 11-month process shape you as an entrepreneur and shaped MOBBOT’s development?

Every Venture Kick presentation and bootcamp allowed us to get out of the water, to step back from what we were doing. On the one hand to see the progress and the achievements made and on the other hand to refocus on the essential. Winning the first two phases of Venture Kick was also a huge recognition for the team and the every development steps that were achieved.

Venture Kick helped us focus our business model on recurring revenue and gave us visibility among investors. We’ve used its financial support to showcase MOBBOT at construction industry conferences, visit massively customers and revamp our marketing.

“Venture Kick helped us focus our business model on recurring revenue and gave us visibility among investors. We’ve used its financial support to showcase MOBBOT at construction industry conferences and trade fairs, visit customers and revamp our marketing.”

What are the next steps for MOBBOT?

We would like to provide the necessary digital tools so that the customers have access to our 3D printing platform in a few clicks.

On the other hand, we want to achieve the industrialization of the print head and of the entire printing system. We need to focus on a reliable and robust static printing system first and will work on the mobility in a second step.

We work already with local raw materials. Thanks to our novel additive manufacturing technique we can reduce dramatically the CO2 emissions in comparison with the traditional fabrication method. We want to further push this aspect and use of recycled materials.

International expansion! Cost-effective solutions to deliver custom-made concrete products is a global need, and our technology is the innovative answer to this global market opportunity. We have requests from abroad, and need to progress step by step and industrialize our process first.
RESISTELL
FASTER DIAGNOSTICS TO COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Drug-resistant infections kill about 700,000 people globally each year. During the several days it takes conventional tests for antibiotic resistance to be grown in labs, a wrong prescription can extend expensive hospital stays and risk accelerating bacterial resistance to existing drugs. Discover the startup developing the world’s fastest antibiogram to tackling this problem.

“I co-founded Resistell to help physicians fight for the lives of patients with extremely difficult-to-treat infections,” says CEO Danuta Cichocka, a microbiology PhD, who co-founded Resistell with researchers from Switzerland’s École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne. Her startup is developing the world’s fastest phenotypic antibiotic susceptibility test (AST) to address the critical problem of speed of diagnostics of antibiotic resistance.

Currently phenotypic ASTs take as long as three days while bacteria are grown, which means most treatment decisions during this delay are empirical and don’t guarantee the most-effective antibiotic treatment. EPFL inventors and Resistell co-founders Giovanni Dietler and Sandor Kasas refined nanotechnology and atomic force microscopy techniques that can get accurate results in hours. This speed means Resistell’s diagnostic tool helps physicians choose the most-efficient, and also the narrowest-spectrum, antibiotic for the patient faster.

“We want to contribute to better treatment, especially of life-threatening diseases such as bacteremia and sepsis, and slow the spread of antimicrobial resistance,” Cichoka says.

Resistell closed a seed round from strategic life science investors immediately after winning Venture Kick’s highest level of support in 2018. “Venture Kick played a very big role and helped us close the round quickly, as we met investors through the program’s jury sessions.”

“Combating antibiotic resistance requires better diagnostics – not just new antibiotics.”

Danuta Cichoka, Resistell CEO and co-founder

That investment helped Resistell build its team, complete pre-clinical testing and core technology design. An oversubscribed 3.5-million-franc Series A round in December has provided the EPFL spin-off with the investment to complete CE-mark certification of its blood infection testing device.

While Switzerland, Europe’s leading life science hub, has strong infrastructure to launch a startup, the entrepreneur has a global vision for her company:

“Resistell’s ambition is to grow and expand! The Swiss market is too small to achieve multi-million revenues, so to achieve a return on investment, medtech startups need to anticipate and plan expansion from the very beginning.”
What is Araris’ innovation?
We help the development of treatments for patients with unmet medical needs. Our platform allows scientists to attach any payload to ‘off the shelf’ antibodies, without any prior antibody engineering. The resulting ADCs show high efficacy and low toxicity. Such straightforward drug conjugation, versatile technology and high in vivo efficacy means powerful biopharmaceuticals can be used to deliver highly potent drugs, specifically to diseased tissue while sparing the health parts of the human body.

What distinguishes Araris from the state-of-the-art?
Conventionally-generated ADCs face several challenges and side-effects, which means many fail at clinical trial. Current technologies also aren’t versatile, which means some payloads impair ADC stability, and require significant optimization for each antibody/payload combination. Our highly soluble, hydrophilic Linker Technology permits straightforward conjugation of any payload on an existing antibody and offers unparalleled chemical versatility that results in very stable ADCs. This significantly reduces the time and cost of drug development.

How did Venture Kick help your startup?
Venture Kick was essential in the starting phase. We received extremely valuable input on business plan development and pitching. The financial support allowed us to attend partnering meetings and scientific conferences, which led to ongoing feasibility studies with several pharma companies. Challenging feedback at the Kickers’ Camps also prepared us for the critical questions we encountered when fundraising.

“Venture Kick was essential”
Philipp Spycher, Araris Biotech CEO and co-founder

Araris Biotech co-founders Philipp Spycher, Isabella Attinger-Toller, and Dragan Grabulovski, won the highest level of Venture Kick support before closing a CHF 2.5-million-seed-round with life science investors.
AUXIVO

Work-related injuries cost employers in Europe €30 billion every year. Auxivo is developing a light exoskeleton for workers lifting and carrying as much as 30 kg. By reducing the load on backs and joints, Auxivo cuts the risk of exhaustion, accidents, chronic injuries, and early retirements. The stripped-down, passive device is comfortable for workers to wear all day, and cheap enough for companies to equip each employee.

FenX

Buildings account for 40 percent of worldwide energy consumption and 36 percent of global greenhouse gases. While better and greener insulation can reduce buildings’ environmental impact, most modern insulation either has a relatively high CO2-footprint or is highly flammable. ETHZ spin-off FenX solves both challenges by transforming industrial mineral waste into sustainable, high-performance insulation foam panels that also ensures fire-protection in buildings.

GreenTEG

GreenTEG offers the world's first sensor for continuous core body temperature measurement – vital to understanding a person’s health. The startup’s non-invasive tech also offers greater accuracy. Integration in smartwatches opens new kinds of healthtech applications and could help the shift to preventive, proactive healthcare, by checking vital parameters without interrupting daily lives.

Nagi Bioscience

Thousands of new chemicals are discovered every day, which all need testing before they can be used for medicines, food or cosmetics. Traditional animal testing is slow and expensive, while in vitro modelling on isolated cells can’t predict how entire biological systems will respond. Nagi Bioscience’s ethical and biologically-relevant screening machine uses microscopic worms to perform such tests 300,000 times faster than a human researcher.
Planted Foods
planted.ch
Sixty billion chickens are killed annually. Planted uses yellow split peas to create tasty protein that mimics the taste, texture and mouthfeel of chicken. The ETHZ spin-off already sells its produce to Swiss restaurants and raised a CHF 7-million seed round to scale production and expand abroad. Food for thought for the meatless generation!

Yago
yagoexo.com
As our societies age, more people have difficulty using their hands. Based on EPFL research, this spin-off’s robotic glove has a soft, motorized exoskeleton to help wearers grasp and release everyday objects. Developed with more than a dozen healthcare professionals, the patent-pending tech will restore independence and autonomy in daily life for users in many different situations.

Nanogence
nanogence.com
A tenth of manmade carbon emission come from making cement and concrete. Nanogence’s smart additive halves the carbon footprint of these essential building materials, while also increasing the lifespan of the resulting infrastructure. The Lausanne-based startup agreed many commercial pilots of its technology in 2019, as it’s device approaches market-readiness.

Neural Concept
neuralconcept.com
The EPF Lausanne spin-off uses artificial intelligence to analyze the aerodynamics of designs 1,000 times more quickly than the current state-of-the-art. That machine-driven creativity has already set records, as Neural Concept’s software designed and optimize the aerodynamics of the bike ridden by the world’s fastest woman. The startup’s aerodynamic design simulation for cars and airplanes has already raised a seven-figure sum from international investors.
54 VENTURE KICKERS
MADE IT TO THE TOP 100 IN 2019

1. FLYABILITY SA
   → flyability.com
   Flyability is a Swiss company building safe drones for inaccessible places.
   8.4.14

2. LUNAPHORE TECHNOLOGIES SA
   → lunaphore.ch
   Lunaphore is disrupting the tissue diagnostics field by providing a new tumor analysis platform.
   8.4.14

3. AVA AG
   → avawomen.com
   Ava is a digital health company that has developed a solution to accurately and conveniently recognize fertile days.
   11.11.14

4. CUTISS AG
   → cutiss.swiss
   CUTISS grows human skin in the lab for patients that suffer from skin defects (e.g. burns). The startup bio-engineers individually customized human skin starting off from a very small piece of patient’s skin.
   4.1.14

5. GAMAYA SA
   → gamaya.com
   Gamaya improves efficiency and sustainability of farming businesses by offering unique and compelling agronomy solutions, enabled by hyperspectral imaging and artificial intelligence.
   4.1.14

6. FIXPOSITION AG
   → fixposition.com
   Fixposition offers high accuracy (centimetre to decimeter accuracy) navigation with superior reliability for autonomous vehicles in any outdoor environment.
   21.11.17

7. EXEON ANALYTICS AG
   → exeon.ch
   Exeon Analytics fights advanced cyber attacks using big data analytics. Its cybersecurity solution can distinguish between criminal data outflows from large companies and normal internet traffic.
   4.10.16

8. POLYNEURON PHARMACEUTICALS AG
   → polyneuron.com
   Polyneuron develops a new drug class for the treatment of autoimmune diseases affecting the nervous system.
   3.6.14

9. VOLUMINA MEDICAL SA
   → volumina-medical.ch
   Volumina is active in the field of tissue engineering and develops injectable 3D scaffolds for the reconstruction of volumes of soft tissues (fat, muscles, glandular tissues, supporting and connective tissues) that have been lost after tumor ablation, disease, trauma, or for purely esthetical purposes.
   4.9.17

10. RESISTELL AG
    → resistell.com
    Revolutionary alternative to the current gold standard in antibiotic susceptibility testing, culture based antibiogram, based on the detection of movement caused by living bacterial cells.
    30.1.18

11. INSOLETEC AG
    → inositec.com
    Inositec is pioneering the development of life-saving small molecule drugs based on inositol phosphate, a natural facilitator of diverse cellular functions.
    3.4.12

12. AGROSUSTAIN SA
    → agrosustain.ch
    Organic fungicide to control a widespread and destructive grey mold disease to be used in post-harvest applications.
    8.8.17

13. DOTPHOTON SA
    → dotphoton.com
    Dotphoton™ is an image compression solution for professional applications: it makes RAW images up to 10 times smaller with a strong guarantee that quality is preserved, saving a corresponding amount of time and money and enabling the next generation of high quality imaging solutions in photogaphy, cinema, AI, biomedical and aerospace.
    4.9.17

14. NANOLEG GMBH
    → nanoleg.com
    nanoleg developed a fundamentally new cable technology. The startup produces cable prototypes that have a flex lifetime improved by a factor 100 while preserving high mechanical flexibility (industry testing standard).
    8.8.17

15. PIAVITA SA
    → piavita.com
    Piavita offers a holistic system for high-precision medical monitoring of horses – from anywhere at any time.
    54 VENTURE KICKERS

20. DAPHNE TECHNOLOGY SA
    → daphnetechnology.com
    Daphne’s exhaust gas cleaning technology can help commercial ship owners to comply with the new international SOx and NOx marine air emission regulations entering into force in 2020 in the most economical and environmentally friendly manner available.
    28.2.17

21. CREAL SA
    → creal.com
    CREAL3D brings true depth to virtual images thanks to its light-field technology, allowing to create true 3D images with correct “one-eye” depth cues allowing an eye to change focus naturally.
    20.6.17

22. VERSANTIS AG
    → versantis.ch
    Versantis is a pharmaceutical company revolutionizing the care of liver disease patients with a new generation of medicines and diagnostics.
    4.3.14

23. IMVERSE AG
    → imverse.com
    Imverse creates a VR/MR interactive 3D movie from a single 2D photo with live hologram actors and real-time VFX.
    31.1.17

24. MAXWELL BIOSYSTEMS AG
    → maxbio.com
    MaxWell Biosystems provides advanced high-resolution functional cell imaging platforms to facilitate detailed investigation of cells.
    5.7.16

25. INSOLIGHT SÀRL
    → insolight.ch
    Insolight developed a flat optical panel that directs sunlight on smaller and highly efficient solar cells, which are normally used in satellites. The technology can produce twice as much electricity for the same surface area than conventional panels.
    8.12.15

26. INVERSE AG
    → inverse.com
    Inverse creates a VR/MR interactive 3D movie from a single 2D photo with live hologram actors and real-time VFX.
    31.1.17

27. RESISTELL AG
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    3.4.12

31. AGROSUSTAIN SA
    → agrosustain.ch
    Organic fungicide to control a widespread and destructive grey mold disease to be used in post-harvest applications.
    8.8.17
SUPPORTED PROJECTS 2019

MEDTECH
4i Labs
Gabriele Gut – University of Zurich (UZH), Functional reports to support tumour boards in clinical decision making by performing multiplexed molecular- and ex vivo drug response- profiling.

Artina Medical AG
Guillaume Petit-Pierre – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL); Micro-actuated device allowing to treat brain vascular diseases with unprecedented accuracy, effectiveness and safety.

b-räume
Cristina Rossi – University Hospital of Zurich, QA and standardization for radiology procedure using AI for more efficient workflow, with lower operating costs.

DIANA Dosimetry
Donatella Ungaro – Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), Detect in-vivo radiation level in radiology to prevent accidental overexposure.

epyMetrics
Edith Schmid – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Diagnostic wearable to monitor your body’s heat balance and avoid heat stress.

FLOWBONE

Frater GmbH
Andreas Frasnelli – EMPA, Heating infusion line for emergency services preventing hypothermia and death ultimately.

Genkowne SA
Semira Gonsen – Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV), Epigenetic test to track your health and helps you to slow down aging.

Hi-D Imaging AG
Utku Gülan – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Tailored heart valve selection tool which helps the patients by improving their life quality after the valve replacement.

KateBx
Wuwei Ren – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A new revolutionary lithography technology for IC production at a lower cost with a green battery replacement.

KOVE
Yannick Devaud – University of Zurich (UZH), Develops a medical device preventing fetal membrane rupture following fetoscopies avoiding preterm birth.

NanoGlore
Tino Matter – EMPA; Nanogluce makes skin transplants safer with increased success rates.

OxyPrem AG
Alexander Nitsch – University of Zurich (UZH), Brain oxygen monitoring device in high-risk preterm infants.

REA
Erick Antonio, Garcia Cordero – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Microencapsulation on an industrial scale.

Regenosca SA
Matthias Larsson – Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV), Cost effective, easy to handle, shapeable, and inducer of excellent tissue regeneration.

SELPI

STIMIT AG
Ronja Müller-Bruhn – Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Contactless stimulation of the diaphragm for ICU patients to avoid diaphragm inactivity.

SwissSource Sàrl

TERAPET Sàrl
Christina Valgren – Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), Innovative medical device for a safer proton therapy, monitoring the delivered proton dose inside the patients in 3D.

Viventis Microscopy Sàrl

Yago
Luca Randazzo – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A robotic glove to support daily living independence in daily living for people with hand motor impairments.

BIOTECH
Adpass
Andrej Babic – University of Geneva (UNIGE), Medical imaging products for early detection of cancer, a devastating body wasting syndrome.

ALAnostics
André Baby – University of Geneva (UNIGE), Stable, non-toxic injectable small molecules that will allow real-time detection and visualization of tumor margins.

Alibion AG
Daniel Rojas – University of St. Gallen (HSG), First oral, personalized therapy against Rheumatoid arthritis.

Arans Biotech AG
Philipp Spycher – PSI Paul Scherrer Institute, Enabling highly efficient and easy to manufacture antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs).

Ceidos SA
Sébastien Walpen – University of Bern (USN), Automating manufacturing of “living drugs” ensuring better outcomes for a lower cost.

Collectome Sàrl

deepCGR Biologics AG
Derek Mason – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Gene editing, deep sequencing, and deep learning combined for antibody discovery and engineer ing.

Endotelix Diagnostics Sàrl
Karim Brandt – Andere-Autres-Others, Providing a reliable diagnostic method for Antiphospholipid Syndrome.

EraCal Therapeutics AG
Josua Jordi – University of Zurich (UZH), Develop proprietary drugs to treat the metabolic syndrome linked with obesity problems.

Excitas
Michael Hauer – University of Basel (UNIBAS), Enhancing the efficiency of CRISPR-cas9 gene therapies.

Invasight
Karthiga Santhana Kumar – University of Zurich (UZH), Automated cell dissemination counter [ADC] to change the way we study, treat, design, and use drugs for cancer metastasis.

Miloscreening platform (MSIP)
Gennady Nikitin – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Screen metabolism-targeting anti-cancer drugs.

MPC Therapeutics Sàrl
Raphael Martinou – University of Geneva (UNIGE), Develop a first-in-class mitochondrial pyruvate carrier (MPC) inhibitor compound to treat metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases.

Nagi Bioscience SA

Prolongate
Michael Werther – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Sugar polymers for better protein drugs.

Swiss Medical Union SA
Danil Golubev – University of Geneva (UNIGE), Human on chip device to find the right treatment for cancer patients.

Synendos Therapeutics AG
Andrea Chica – University of Bern (UNIBE), Development of a new class of modifiers of the endocannabinoid system to treat anxiety and stress related disorders which are characterized by [endocannabinoid deficiency.

CLEANTECH
Bloom Biorenewables Sàrl
Florent Hérougal – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Making biomass a true alternative to petroleum for the production of sustainable and cost-competitive bio-based materials for the chemical industry.

Cowa Thermal Solutions AG
Remo Wasser – Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Developing a new thermal energy storage technology for fix installations.

iWin
Paolo Corti – Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), Windows that integrates a PV venetian blind to protect buildings from overheating producing renewable energy on site.

Oxara AG
Gaurasundar Conley – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Transforms excavation materials into cement-free concrete, cheap and ecological.

Plastogaz
Felix Bobbink – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Catalyst that converting mixed plastics selectively into natural gas.

Remhpol
Fajar Mushaq – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Removal of over 90% of Micro-pollutants from Wastewater.

SmartHeio

Micro- Nano TECHNOLOGY
AnnAida Technologies Sàrl
Gaurasundar Conley – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Magnetic resonance at the scale of a human embryo, enabling non-invasive viability screening.

Eldico Scientific AG
Gustavo Santiso-Guimones – PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Diffraction meters for the analysis of solid chemical compounds.

INERGIO
Mahmoud Hadad – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Lighthouse fuel cells operating on standard butane / propane.

Microcaps AG
Andreas Ofner – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Brings precision and control to microencapsulation on an industrial scale.

Nanotech SWHL GmbH
Nataasha Ivanova – EMPA, A new revolutionary lithography technology for IC production at a lower cost with a higher accuracy.

Polaroin Technologies AG
Claudia Hoessbacher – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Encode electrical signals onto light using extremely fast and small plasmonic modulators.

swisstech
Clara Moldovan – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Ultra fast charging, long lasting, green battery replacement.
INTERNET, MOBILE
CASUS Technologies AG
Célène Spillmann – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), Low-threshold access to legal ser-
ses at an affordable price.
Nexus Venture AG
Simon Hofer – University of St. Gallen (HSG), Matches
talented students with corporate employees for lunch.
NXSights Sàrl
Diborrah Gillet – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), AI Saas consultant that interacts with
all organizational stakeholders simultaneously to un-
lock full internal insights and external expertise.
RoomPriceGenie AG
Ari Andricopoulos – University of St. Gallen (HSG), Reve-
rue management system for smaller hotels to optimize
their room pricing.
Spectyou AG
Elisabeth Caesar – Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Dig-
telescope the theatre world for consumers and profes-
sionals.
SOFTWARE
ESTICO
Ralph Mott – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), We empower craftsmen to create digital
plans in minutes, plan their projects and extract materi-
al & work effort estimates.
BlinkLabs AG
Lucas Vandrux – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), Deep learning visual inspection software
toolkit for industrial automation.
Hades Technologies AG
Dominik Boller – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Using AI to improve management and
inspection of urban drainage systems.
JYOO is
Julian Rossy – University of St. Gallen (HSG), Enabling
restaurants to better understand their business and
improve the forecast for food and manpower needs.
Logic Flow
Lucas Fivet – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), AI system to help companies to modern-
ize and standardize their IT systems with minimal risk and
cost.
Neural Concept Sàrl
Pierre Baqué – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Brings finite element analysis from
hours to seconds using deep learning algorithms.
neuralisight.ai
Timon Heinis – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Computer vision for industrial quality
assurance.
neurobotX
Diana Deca – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Neurobiologically controlled AI.
OptiGuard
Felix Linnenschmidt – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), AI algorithms in combination
with low cost and off the shelf hardware for industrial
inspection.
percm AG
Amina Faetic – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Optimization of image, video and 3D
assets for mobile, web, and augmented/virtual/mixed
reality applications.
Roii (Roll2Go AG)
Lucas Ballo – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Integrated data analytics platform for
the integration, analysis, and visualization of shared
micro-mobility data.
SUIND
Kevin Kleber – University of Zurich (UZH), An AI based
safety critical system for commercial drones operating
BVLOS providing safe landing & flight.
SYLVA
Jessica Sudo – University of Zurich (UZH), A fully-inte-
grated platform that allows educators to create, teach,
test, grade, and manage all of their courses in one
place.
Symphony
Andrew Bollinger – EMPA, Saas platform to support
the planning of sustainable and resilient local energy
systems.
ELECTRONICS, MECHANICS
Aero41 SA
Frederic Hemmeler – HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Eco-
responsible and intelligent crop protection UAV for
low-cost and efficient treatments.
Agrinium Technologies SA
Pierre Brémon – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Robots to harvest oyster, shiitake and
button mushrooms, 24 hours a day.
Aviso AG
Volker Bartenbach – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), Wearable support devices for work-
ers executing physically demanding jobs in industries
such as logistics, construction and manufacturing.
AWATronics Sàrl
Jeyran Hezaveh – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Wideband Digital Active Noise Can-
cellation (ANC) Technology that minimizes unwanted/
disruptive audio noise.
Dronistics
Pryzemyslaw Karnotowski – Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Human-Friendly Drone
for last centimeter delivery.
DuraMon
Yurena Segui Femenias – Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Novel self-sustaining sensor
node to be installed in engineering structures such as
concrete bridges, tunnels, and buildings.
Flybotix SA
Samir Bouabdallah – Swiss Federal Institute of Tech-
ology Lausanne (EPFL), Flybotix technology aims to
double the flight time of compact drones.
IMiTec GmbH / Automatic Aircraft Inspection
Christian Dürerger – EMPA, IMiTec – Remote-controlled
Aircraft Structure inspection device for cheaper and
faster Aircraft Maintenance and Inspection procedure.
LiFiX
Benoit Batialos – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Visible light wireless communication
system.
MOBDOT SA
Agnes Petit – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Visible light wireless communication
system.
ratioX sàrl
Simon Fancio – IMD Lausanne, Automatic gearbox for
simple and reliable commuter cycling.
Rig Technologies GmbH
Adam Klaptecz – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Drone logistics company connecting
cities for quick and cheap delivery.
Sevsense Robotics AG
Gregory Hitz – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Visual navigation system for the next
generation of service robots.
ShemaTic Sarl
Cédric Flüeli – HES-SO Genève, Most powerful electric
motors for lightweight vehicles.
Swiss Ocean Tech GmbH
Rafael Mottl – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Deep learning visual inspection software
for rental of sports and leisure objects.
OTHERS
BoxUp
Frank Rouiller – HES-SO Master, Autonomous locker
for rental of sports and leisure objects.
Planted Foods AG
Pascal Bieri – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Sustainable, healthy and cruelty-free
plant-based meat.
Yasai
Mark Zahrani – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Vertical Farming fully automated and
spatially adaptable vertical farming enabling higher
yields per square meter.
MATERIALS, CHEMICALS
CompPair Technologies
Arnaud Cathodes – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Healable fibre-reinforced composite
structures.
DePoly
Samantha Anderson – Swiss Federal Institute of Tech-
ology Lausanne (EPFL), Chemical recycling of PET
plastic back to its main two components ethylene glycol
(EG) and terephthalic acid (TPA).
dimpora AG
Mario Stucki – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Novel waterproof and breathable mem-
branes for outdoor clothing.
FenX AG
Ettiene Jeoffroy – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), Non-flammable insulation foam
produced from non-toxic waste materials without
additional carbon emissions.
Gaia Membranes AG
Fabio Oldenburg – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Ion exchange membranes that unlock
efficiency in energy storage for vanadium flow battery.
Liyvore (stealth)
Epanemonadous Gousopoulos – Swiss Federal Institute
of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Stealth startup in the
cosmetic sector.
microPow AG
Pascal Guillet – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Zurich (ETHZ), Additive-free, microstructured delivery
system allowing improved storability as well as en-
hanced and controlled release of flavors.
Nectaris Sàrl
Richard Spilvay – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Lausanne (EPFL), Developing novel natural flavors for
truffle fungi.
Spectroplast AG
Manuel Schaffner – Swiss Federal Institute of Technol-
yogy Zurich (ETHZ), Introducing Silicone to the World of
3D Printing
The number of projects applying to join Venture Kick increased year-on-year by 22 percent, to 579 (from 474 in 2018). The majority, 60 percent, came from the German-speaking part of Switzerland, 38 percent from the French-speaking and the remaining 2 percent from Italian-speaking Ticino.

Venture Kick has national coverage and attracts applicants from across the country: quarter of applications originate from the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and in Lausanne, with the remaining 75 percent coming from projects distributed among 41 other universities.

Applications come from all high-tech sectors. The most strongly represented sectors are ICT/internet & mobile, with 35 percent; life sciences, encompassing biotech and medtech, account for 13 percent of the applications; and 5 percent are cleantech projects.

Selection is competitive. Projects from the two Federal Institutes of Technology perform strongly and represent 69 percent of supported projects, with the following distribution: 39 percent are in the life sciences; 20 percent concern information and communication technologies; 22 percent cover electronics, mechanics and micro/nano-technologies; 7 percent are cleantech projects but many others have a strong cleantech component even if not classified in this category; and material and chemicals innovations represent 9 percent.
## FINANCES

### DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash Support for Startups</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants of CHF 10,000</td>
<td>4,350,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convertible loans of CHF 40,000</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convertible loans of CHF 100,000</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convertible loans</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

- **Business Development Support for Startups**
  - Review of approximately 550 project applications, feedback to candidates
  - Presenting to investors and supporters at 45 jury sessions in 2019, and 46 juries in 2020
  - Personal introductions to industrial and pilot customers
  - Individual coaching and support at 54 Kickers Camps and Kickers Briefings in 2019, and 56 in 2020
  - Written feedback and pitch videos, monthly reporting, startup hotline
  - Support and management for invested portfolio
  - Press releases and articles for startups to create national and international visibility
  - Promotion of startup portraits via multiple channels: Handelszeitung, startup.ch, startwerk.ch, startupticker.ch
  - Business software, checklists and templates

### ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Management</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning/Team management/Reporting</td>
<td>345,000</td>
<td>345,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion at all Swiss universities and partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Startup Portfolio Management/Financial returns/Donations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Management/CRM/Website</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Board/Audit/Accounting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total (excluding VAT)**

| Actual 2019 | Budget 2020 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 6,155,000   | 6,995,000   |
| 100%        | 100%        |
ORGANIZATION

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.

Legal Structure
Venture Kick is the philanthropic initiative of a private consortium, organized as a charitable foundation and hosted by the Fondation des Fondateurs, an umbrella charity that is monitored by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board of Foundations.

Purpose
Venture Kick aims to promote entrepreneurship at Swiss universities and encourage the creation of highly innovative, science-based startups. Venture Kick helps excellent discoveries and research get funded at the crucial, early stage of their development.

Governing Bodies

Fondation des Fondateurs
The board of trustees supervises Venture Kick’s business activities based on detailed annual reports. It is composed of Dr. Dr. Thomas Sprecher (PRESIDENT), Dr. Philipp Egger (VICE-PRESIDENT), and Evelyn S. Braun. The trustees have delegated all strategic and managerial competences 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 goals. It is composed of Dr. Pascale Vonmont, representing the Gebert Rüf Stiftung, delegate; Dr. Suzanne Schenk, representing the Ernst Göhner Stiftung; and Dr. Igor Fisch of Selexis SA.

Pool of Experts
Juries of successful investors and proven business experts evaluate Venture Kick applicants’ projects at regular jury sessions. The composition of each jury varies from session to session, and is drawn from a pool of experts listed at www.venture-kick.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.
OUTLOOK

For 2020 we plan the following:

→ **550 APPLICATIONS**

→ **269 PROJECTS PITCHING**
  (144 stage 1 / 80 stage 2 / 45 stage 3) at 46 jury sessions

→ **149 PROJECTS FUNDED**
  (80 at CHF 10,000 / 45 at CHF 40,000 / 24 at CHF 100,000)

→ **CHF 5,000,000**
  in seed-funding for startup projects

→ **45 KICKERS CAMPS**
  2-day workshops in small groups

→ **11 KICKERS’ BRIEFINGS**
  Workshops at Swiss universities

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 have set the following cumulative targets to achieve by the end of 2027:

→ **1,000**
  active high-tech companies

→ **15,000**
  high-quality and sustainable jobs created

→ **CHF 10,000,000,000**
  of investment raised by Venture Kick alumni

→ **CHF 3,000,000,000**
  annual revenue produced by these companies
TO LAUNCH 80 NEW STARTUPS IN 2020 AND BRING SWISS DEEP TECH TO GLOBAL MARKETS

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has provided 675 Swiss university spin-offs with CHF 29.3 million of seed capital. To date, 519 have incorporated, creating 6,967 jobs. So far, these startups have attracted CHF 3.48 billion in additional investment.

A philanthropic initiative of a private consortium

www.venturekick.ch