



EIT Awards 2016

Celebrating innovation and entrepreneurship

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Celebrating innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe

The EIT Awards recognise and reward some of the most talented individuals and start-ups supported by the EIT Community. The 2016 ceremony took place in Budapest during INNOVEIT, the EIT's annual innovation forum, and was a fitting counterpart to an event that celebrated the best and brightest of modern European innovation.



Earlier in the day, each of the award nominees had been given the chance to promote their innovations to the audience – and a panel of expert judges. The CHANGE and Venture Award nominees took to the stage and carried out engaging 'elevator' pitches, while the Innovator Award nominees were part of an Innovation Tour.

With the action moving to the Budapest Museum of Applied Arts for the Awards ceremony, and in the presence of European Commissioners Tibor Navracsics and Carlos Moedas, it was now time for the judges to reveal who they'd chosen as the winners of the 2016 EIT Awards...

The EIT Awards are a chance to showcase the results of the EIT Community and to really show what the innovators and entrepreneurs supported by the KICs can do. They can be role models for everyone out there and inspire them with their exciting innovations.

-- EIT Interim Director Martin Kern, speaking at INNOVEIT 2016

It's really fantastic to be here and to congratulate the EIT Awards winners. It's also a fantastic opportunity to congratulate and be here with the EIT which, for me, is such an important part of the innovation ecosystem.

-- Commissioner Carlos Moedas, speaking at the EIT Awards 2016 ceremony

Meet the CHANGE Award nominees

Allen Mohammadi

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy

CEO and Co-founder of Hippogriff AB (main product: Complex Disease Detector)

<http://hippogriff.launchrock.com>

Complex Disease Detector is an accurate, non-invasive and inexpensive tool for the screening and early diagnosis of heart diseases



Karens Grigorjancs

Supported by EIT Digital

Co-founder and CTO of Plugify

www.plugify.nl

Plugify is an online platform that enables people to view, listen to and book live music



Carlos González de Miguel

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy

Field Application Engineer for the Intelligent, Directional Fault Passage Indicator

www.carlosgonzalezdemiguel.blogspot.be

An Intelligent, Directional Fault Passage Indicator is a device that can be installed in a medium voltage network to communicate the presence of a fault



Nurul Momen

Supported by EIT Digital

Co-founder of A-WARE

www.a-ware.io

A-WARE is a mobile app that protects you from security and privacy invasions by warning you of probable breaches



Chris Emmott

Supported by Climate-KIC

Developer of the 'Bringing New Photovoltaic Technologies to Africa' project

www.climate-kic.org/blog/fortnight-rwanda

My project leveraged expertise from across academia and industry to assess the potential for emerging photovoltaic technologies to transform the market for off-grid solar products



EIT CHANGE Award winner 2016: Allen Mohammadi

When he lost his grandmother to an unexpected heart attack a few years ago, it was a tragedy for Allen Mohammadi. But it also led him to develop a game-changing technology that will help ensure no other family has to suffer the same experience.



Allen Mohammadi receives his EIT CHANGE Award from European Commissioners Tibor Navracsics and Carlos Moedas

Enter the Complex Disease Detector (CDD). An accurate, non-invasive and cost-effective tool, the CDD detects and diagnoses health conditions, specifically heart diseases. But what makes this technology so special – and potentially life-changing – is its ability to do so even when the individual isn't showing any symptoms. "More than 17 million people die each year from heart disease worldwide," Allen says. "The main cause of death in most cases is late diagnosis and a lack of obvious symptoms."

“Effective and valuable courses through my KIC Energised Master’s programme broadened my horizons and enabled me to see the big picture.”

More than 17 million people is a staggering statistic, but it shows the truly global potential of Allen's technology. The CDD could change lives and the results are already being seen, as Allen describes. "The CDD is less invasive than other current methods, and minimises the pain and risk these methods involve [...] to date, the CDD has been tested with more than 500 individuals successfully."

Despite the brilliance of his idea, Allen's entrepreneurial journey hasn't been without its challenges. He credits the training he received through the EIT Community with helping him to overcome them. "Effective and valuable courses through my KIC InnoEnergy Master's programme broadened my horizons and enabled me to see the big picture regarding innovation and entrepreneurship [...] I believe such programmes are designed in the best possible way."

His own initiative has also had a part to play. "To address financial and experience-related challenges, I participated



in different competitions to meet experts who were often jury members," he shares. "Also, after winning prizes, I re-invested them into the development of my innovation."

“It was amazing because four years of hard work all came down to that moment.”

One such prize was the CHANGE Award 2016, where the potential of Allen and his innovation resonated with the jury. "The winner presented a clearly defined global issue and a well-defined proposal for a solution that could have significant potential for millions of people," their statement read. "The winner illustrated immense drive and personal commitment in pushing his option forward and developing a team."

For Allen, the win was recognition of how far he'd come. "It was amazing because four years of hard work all came down to that moment," he recalls. "I've been trained for two years through my KIC InnoEnergy Master's programme to be a change maker. That night wasn't just a celebration of winning the EIT CHANGE Award – for me, it was the celebration of hard, hard work!"

Hard work it may be, but Allen is determined to press on and see his dreams realised. "I want to create a movement to transform public health," he sums up, "by helping individuals become aware of, and involved in, their own health."

Find out more

hippogriff.launchrock.com

[f](#) Ali Mohammadi

[in](#) Ali Mohammadi



Meet the Venture Award nominees

André Croft de Moura

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy
 Founder and CEO of Pro-Drone
www.pro-drone.eu

Pro-Drone is developing a turn-key solution for the inspection of wind turbine blades



Genevieve Bergeret

Supported by EIT Digital
 Sales Manager at ProctorExam
www.proctorexam.com

ProctorExam provides the missing link in online education: safe online exams from anywhere, any time



Andreas Kunze

Supported by EIT Digital
 CEO of KONUX
 (main product: Smart Sensor Solution for Machine Insights)
www.konux.com

At KONUX we are building smart sensor systems that can provide insights into machine and infrastructure breakdowns



Koen Koevoets

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy
 Co-owner of Eco-Dryer Systems (main product: Eco-Dryer)
www.ecodryersystems.com

Eco-Dryer Systems has developed a laundry dryer technology by blowing instead of vaporising moisture by heat



Florian Schneider

Supported by Climate-KIC
 Co-founder and CCO of Nerdalize
www.nerdalize.com

Nerdalize heats houses with computing power. By placing powerful servers in the form of a radiator in people's homes, we heat the home with the heat the servers produce



Rolf Kersten

Supported by Climate-KIC
 Technical Advisor at Solarkraftwerke Afrika
 (main product: Solar Container)
www.solarcontainer.org

Mobile Solarkraftwerke Afrika builds mobile solar power plants for off-grid use, delivering clean and affordable electricity to rural communities



EIT Venture Award winner 2016: Florian Schneider

Radiators heat houses and offices. Servers power complex digital operations. To most, they're separate technologies that have very little in common. But to Florian Schneider and Nerdalize, they're two halves of an innovative and cost-saving invention.

Nerdalize has pioneered a product that looks like a radiator, but is actually a powerful computer server. These servers can be installed in people's homes and the natural waste heat they produce during their operation is then used to heat the house. As Florian describes, the benefits – and potential markets – are two-fold. "Home owners save about €300 a year on their heating bill and cloud computing users save between 40-50% on the cost of each job."

“They [Nerdalize] took two existing problems and used them together to solve them simultaneously.”

The idea of combining these two technologies is something that particularly appealed to the Venture

Award jury. "One of the reasons we thought [Nerdalize] was a good concept is because they took two existing problems and used them together to solve them simultaneously," jury member Gabor George Burt says. The overall statement from the jury echoed that, adding "the winner has tested the first generation of its devices, has its first clients and is already working on the next generation and further expansion [...] it has a well thought-through business plan and offers a high and quick return to investors."

The Nerdalize story began in 2013, when Florian and his fellow co-founders Boaz Leupe and Mathijs de Meijer began to see the potential of their hybrid technology. "We realised that our idea could have tremendous impact," Florian recalls, "tackling heating as one of the largest uses of energy in Europe while also tackling cloud computing as one of the fastest growing industries, and also be a tremendous source of progress."



“We’ve all been working very hard on making Nerdalize a success and we’re almost there.”

Add being named the Venture Award winner for 2016 and the future is looking bright for Nerdalize. "Winning the Venture Award is really welcome recognition for our team," Florian says. "We've all been working very hard on making Nerdalize a success and we're almost there – and this is definitely a very important step in the right direction."

Three years on and the system has been successfully piloted in five homes in partnership with Eneco, one of the largest energy providers in the Netherlands. Nerdalize has grown from a team of three to a team of 12 and the company is preparing to scale-up its production. Florian acknowledges that the support of the EIT Community has been essential to this positive growth. "The whole Climate-KIC Netherlands team and the wider Climate-KIC community have helped us with coaching, their network, and events organised in the Netherlands and abroad. They've also helped with access to customers and potential partners, while providing a network of fellow entrepreneurs who are building their own businesses."



Find out more

www.nerdalize.com



Nerdalize



@Nerdalize



Nerdalize

Meet the Venture Award nominees

Alexandra Nouillas

Supported by Climate-KIC

Project Manager for FOREST (Fully Optimized and Reliable EmissionS Tool)

bit.ly/Climate-KIC_FOREST

FOREST provides solutions for sustainable forest management and carbon stocks enhancement



Joakim Nydrén

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy

Project Manager for MrCySeMoL
(main product: securiCAD)

securiCAD is a state-of-the-art threat-modelling and computer-aided design (CAD) tool for proactive cyber security management



Franca Garzotto

Supported by EIT Digital

Project Manager for P3S (Playful Supervised Smart Spaces)

www.i3lab.me/projects/p3s

P3S delivers ground-breaking smart space solutions to transform any physical room into a 'Magic K-Room' – a multisensory interactive environment



Norbert Kuipers

Supported by Climate-KIC

Project Manager for WE4CC-II (Water and Energy for Climate Change)

www.we4cc.eu

We use membrane distillation and desiccant recovery systems to turn low-grade waste heat or renewable solar PVT heat into high-quality water and indoor air



Jean H.A. Gelissen

Supported by EIT Digital

Action Line Leader for Fit to Perform

bit.ly/EITDigFit2Perform

We monitor professional drivers, making their working lives healthier and safer, while also bringing benefits to their companies in terms of reduced fuel consumption and vehicle wear and tear



Philippe Alamy

Supported by KIC InnoEnergy

Development Manager for BIPV-Insight

bit.ly/BIPV-Insight

We are connecting professionals in building information modelling to boost the building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) industry



EIT Innovator Award winner 2016: Norbert Kuipers

We know that waste heat plays a large role in rising global temperatures. Unfortunately, it's an unavoidable by-product of a lot of the industrial, domestic and energy production processes that we rely on in everyday life. But what if there was a way to stop this heat from reaching the atmosphere and, better yet, to utilise it in a way that benefits society?



Norbert Kuipers and the team behind Water and Energy from Climate Change (WE4CC-II) believe they have the answer. Their unique technology takes this waste heat and uses it to produce high-quality water and indoor air control, which can substantially reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. "WE4CC-II uses membrane distillation technology to produce the water," Norbert describes, "which is a thermally-driven process where water passes through a membrane and high-quality liquid is retained. For air de-humidification, we use desiccant recovery systems."

"The jury saw potential for the product on a global scale."

The science might be complex, but the market potential is simple: it's huge. Norbert's technology could be applied anywhere from high-end hotels

to remote villages, and cover domestic hot water applications, drinking water production and solar cooling applications. The Innovator Award jury agreed, stating that "the impact of [WE4CC-II's] innovations were verified and tested in the market" and they "saw potential for the product on a global scale."

Partnership has been essential to the growing success of the WE4CC-II project and Norbert is quick to acknowledge the team effort. "I want to thank my colleagues and partners because this is an integrated project," he says. These partners include the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), Naked Energy Ltd. (a former EIT Venture Award winner) and Laborelec (GDF Suez). "Working in a team with different and complementary backgrounds, while having a common goal, is very inspiring," Norbert adds. "All of us are convinced that the added value, both for their technologies as well as for their markets, comes from the integration of their systems."

"Climate-KIC helped us by bringing partners from different disciplines together."

The integration he's referring to is how the waste heat produced by Naked Energy's solar technology is used by TNO's technology to purify or desalinate water, and the waste heat produced by that process is used for heating and cooling through TU Berlin's technology. This process wouldn't be possible without the right partners and building the WE4CC-II team was just one area where Climate-KIC provided support. "Climate-KIC helped us by bringing partners from different disciplines together," Norbert says, "with funding, and with different dissemination and education activities."

Looking forward, the plans for the future of WE4CC-II are already set, as Norbert shares. "We plan to introduce the [solar] photovoltaic and desiccant systems in 2016 and then potentially a combined system in 2017, depending on our final business case evaluations."



Find out more
www.we4cc.eu

Past EIT Award winners

With the 2016 EIT Award winners chosen, we thought it was time to catch up with some previous winners to find out what they've been up to since winning their EIT Award...



Christophe Williams
EIT Venture Award winner 2012
Naked Energy Ltd.

In their own words, Naked Energy is a design and innovation business focused on renewable energy and energy conservation. The company is also an EIT Venture Award winner, having impressed the EIT with its unique hybrid solar technology, Virtu, back in 2012.

Since then, Christophe Williams and Naked Energy have gone from strength to strength. At the prestigious Cleantech Open in 2013, they won the Energy Generation category and the People's Choice award. A €1.3 million grant from the UK's Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) followed, along with a recent global agreement with US-based manufacturing giant Jabil to scale up production of the Virtu technology.

Naked Energy has also continued its relationship with the EIT Community, Climate-KIC in particular, and is now working with EIT Innovator Award winner 2016, Norbert Kuipers, on the Water and Energy for Climate Change (WE4CC-II) project.

Find out more
www.nakedenergy.co.uk
@NakedEnergyLtd



Kate Hofman
EIT CHANGE Award winner 2013
GrowUp Urban Farms

GrowUp Urban Farms champions urban farming through its innovative combination of aquaponics and vertical growing, which allow fresh produce to be grown in the middle of cities. The company had just opened its first self-contained GrowUp Box in London when CEO and Co-Founder Kate Hofman won the EIT CHANGE Award for 2013.

Fast-forward three years and GrowUp Urban Farms has now transformed an empty warehouse in London into an impressive commercial-scale aquaponics urban farm. Kate was recently shortlisted for the Guardian Sustainable Business – Unsung Hero of the Year 2016 award, and the company was a finalist in the BBC Future Food Award category at the BBC's Food and Farming Awards 2016.

Find out more
www.growup.org.uk
@GrowUpBox



EOLOS FLS200
Represented by **Rajai Aghabi**
EIT Innovator Award winner 2015
EOLOS Floating Lidar Solutions

The EIT's first EIT Innovator Award winner was Rajai Aghabi and his company EOLOS for their offshore wind measuring system. By gathering combined information on wind, wave and currents, the EOLOS FLS200 provides reliable wind assessments to offshore wind farm investments to estimate wind energy potential.

When they won the award, EOLOS was already well on its way to becoming a sustainable, profitable business. In February 2016, it was successfully validated for offshore wind measurements in the North Sea after a six-month campaign, which means that EOLOS FLS200 is now a commercially available product.

Find out more
www.eolosolutions.com
eolos-floating-lidar-solutions



Govinda Upadhyay
EIT CHANGE Award winner 2015
LEDsafari (main product: LEDsafari lamp)

The basic premise of the LEDsafari lamp is ingeniously simple: a cost-effective solar lamp for developing countries that is made from locally available materials and can be assembled by anyone. Recognising its global, game-changing potential, the EIT chose Govinda Upadhyay as the EIT CHANGE Award winner 2015.

LEDsafari's ongoing success over the last year culminated in it winning \$100,000 at the prestigious Forbes '30 Under 30' 2015 global social impact competition, where it was one of six finalists chosen from more than 2,500 entrants. LEDsafari also featured on the inaugural Forbes '30 Under 30 Europe' list and continues to carry out workshops and training sessions in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Find out more
www.ledsafari.com
@LEDsafari

The EIT Community has been empowering entrepreneurs and innovators since 2010. Through its powerful network of world-class innovation hubs, and unique partnerships with business, higher education and research, the Community is helping to create a strong environment for entrepreneurship, jobs and growth in Europe.

About the EIT Community

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an independent EU body. With our KICs, we enhance Europe's ability to innovate by nurturing entrepreneurial talent and supporting new ideas.

Our mission

- To contribute to the competitiveness of Europe, its sustainable economic growth and job creation by promoting and strengthening synergies and cooperation among businesses, education institutions and research organisations
- To create favourable environments for creative thought, to enable world-class innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in Europe. The EIT is an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Horizon 2020 is a key pillar of the Innovation Union – a Europe 2020 flagship initiative that aims to enhance Europe's global competitiveness

Innovation through integration

The EIT brings together the 'knowledge triangle' of business, education and research to form dynamic cross-border partnerships: KICs. Working closely together in the KICs, leading companies, universities and research centres create more effective and innovative solutions for Europe.

These unique partnerships:

- Develop innovative products and services
- Start new companies
- Train a new generation of entrepreneurs

We are growing!

The EIT's first three KICs were launched in 2010:

- Climate-KIC: addressing climate-change challenges
- EIT Digital: generating world-class ICT
- KIC InnoEnergy: tackling sustainable energy

Two new KICs were designated in December 2014 and they are setting up their activities across Europe:

- EIT Health: improving quality of life for European citizens and sustainability of health and social care systems
- EIT Raw Materials: ensuring the accessibility, availability and sustainable use of raw materials for the economy and citizens

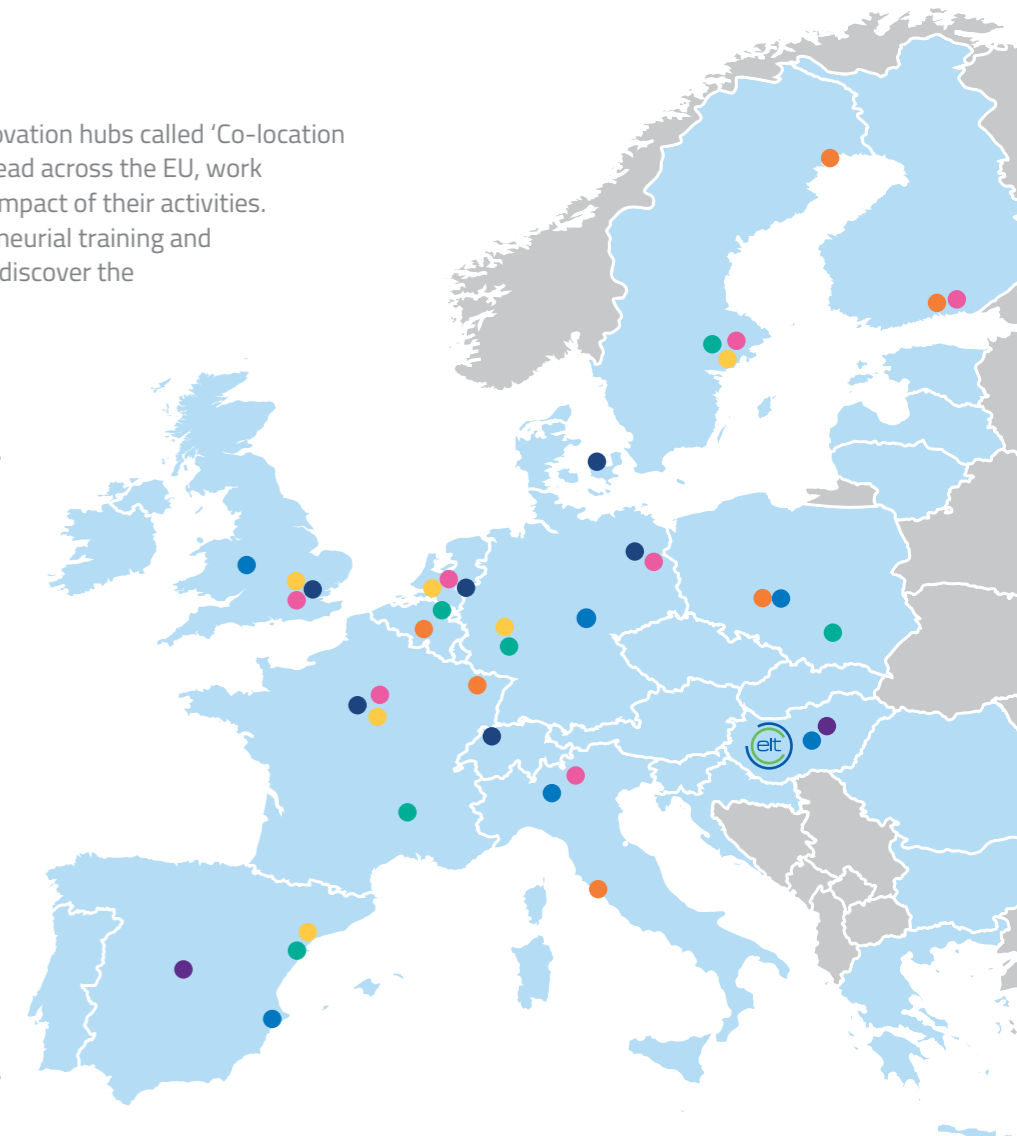
We will set up three more KICs by 2020:

- EIT Food: ensuring a climate-resilient and sustainable global food value chain (2016)
- EIT Manufacturing: strengthening and increasing the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry (2016)
- EIT Urban Mobility: providing sustainable solutions for urban mobility (2018)

The EIT Alumni Community

The EIT Alumni Community brings together an interdisciplinary and multicultural community of change agents, who share a common vision for tackling world challenges and creating a positive impact through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Each of the EIT's KICs operates in innovation hubs called 'Co-location Centres'. The Co-location Centres, spread across the EU, work with regional centres to increase the impact of their activities. All Co-location Centres offer entrepreneurial training and support, so get in touch with them to discover the different opportunities they offer!



Get in touch!



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www.climate-kic.org

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- @ClimateKIC



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www.eitdigital.eu

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