

The TechFounders Accelerator Program starts with its 11th batch.

Munich, January 21, 2020. Today is the kick-off of the 11th batch of the Startup Accelerator Program TechFounders. The Accelerator Program of UnternehmerTUM, Europe's leading center for innovation and business creation, will host eight innovative technology startups over the next 20 weeks in Munich, Germany.

During the upcoming 20 weeks, TechFounders will support the startups with individual training, coaching and mentoring to scale their companies and prepare them for their next financing round. In addition, each of the eight startups will conduct a pilot project with one of the TechFounders' corporate partners ADAC, ALDI, Nord & ALDI SÜD, DATEV, Festo, Knorr-Bremse and Miele.

The future of the selected startups looks promising: 91% of the TechFounders program's alumni companies are still active. In recent years, TechFounders alumni startups have collected in total over € 275 million financing capital and created over 1,300 jobs and therefore contributed significantly to the growth of the German startup ecosystem. Success stories such as Konux, ProGlove or Inveox prove that the TechFounders concept works.

The combination of highly individual coaching, projects with industry leaders on real use cases and a rich network of experienced mentors and investors give startups a massive boost at an early stage. At the same time, the established business partners can use the solutions of startups to develop new, innovative products and digitalize their traditional business models.

The TechFounders Batch #11 Startups are:

BitVox

[BitVox](#) is revolutionizing the way blue-collar employees work. The German company, founded by Tobias Lehmann, has developed an intelligent hearing software, Hea²r, that connects with the work environment and supports work processes through voice assistance. Hea²r Headsets gives important information such as instructions for machines straight to your ears. In addition, it ensures optimal active protection against noise and a possibility to telecommunicate in loud environments. (Corporate partner: Festo).

Changers

[Changers](#) from Berlin have developed an app that motivates sustainable behavior in a playful, competitive way, for example switching from car to bike, walking more often, using public transportation and participating in healthy and climate friendly activities. Changers CO₂ Fit App tracks the participation, calculates the CO₂ balance and rewards sustainable behavior with a CO₂

token, which can be redeemed into tree plantings, donations or vouchers from your employer, city administration or merchants. (Corporate partners: DATEV & ADAC).

Retorio

There is an AI that only needs a one-minute video of a person to derive a highly accurate personality profile. This is the core of [Retorio](#), an AI-enabled video recruiting platform. The Munich-based company, founded by Dr. Christoph Hohenberger, Dr. Patrick Oehler and Addurrahman Namli in 2018, has developed a program that enables firms to identify their applicants' personality traits and soft skills within minutes after it starts engaging with the firm. Retorio automatically matches candidates with jobs and improves the quality, speed, sustainability, and scalability of hiring processes. (Corporate partner: ADAC).

Wheel.me

The [wheel.me](#) solution lets you move everything you have used to move, only easier. By introducing the world's first autonomous wheel, wheel.me aims to become a preferred platform for indoor mobility and material handling by 2022. The Norwegian company, founded by Atle Timenes and Rolf Libakken, has patented a hidden castor system that lets you move objects easily by using your voice, the wheel.me app, or a bluetooth remote control. This makes it possible to for example change room structures or relocate heavy equipment just by telling it where to go. (Corporate partner: Miele).

Orbitless

The Canadian startup [Orbitless](#) is changing the standards of gear design by replacing the traditional loud and inefficient gear-heads with a secondary carrier. The Orbitless design effectively results in a lower noise and a more efficient gearhead without sacrificing torque. The products can be used in any gear motor applications, like robotics, medical devices and electric vehicles. Patented in the U.S., China, and Europe, Orbitless is poised to become a new standard in gear design. (Corporate partner: Knorr-Bremse).

qbound

Munich-based startup [qbound](#) offers a solution that is designed to overcome current and future cybersecurity challenges in the fields of cloud and IoT. The company promises their Zero Trust access management platform ensures that only authenticated users and devices can access the specific resources at the right times and for the right reasons. Their platform's security system is based on the software defined perimeter (SDP) and a blockchain infrastructure, which ensures full transparency and control regarding the data exchange and utilization. (Corporate partner: Knorr-Bremse).

Cascade Drives

As heavy-duty vehicles go electric and become more autonomous, [Cascade Drives](#) offers an alternative solution to the conventional hydraulic systems with their gdGear-based innovation. Their products can deliver the same linear force as comparable hydraulic systems, but with an up

to 40 % reduction in power. In addition, they are faster and offer more precise linear motion in a smaller package, and with almost no maintenance requirements. These features make the products high-performing, eco-friendly and cost-efficient. (Corporate partner: Knorr-Bremse).

Spoontainable

To fight plastic pollution and food waste, [Spoontainable](#) offers a solution which combines both problems. This Stuttgart-based company, founded by Amelie Vermeer, uses valuable residuals from the food industry to create a sustainable and innovative plastic CO₂ neutral alternative. The Spoonie choc is the first edible ice cream spoon made from the fibers of cocoa bean shells. Their edible ice cream spoon has been on the market since April 2019. Since then, it has replaced almost one million plastic ice-cream spoons. (Corporate partner: ALDI).

At the end of the 20-week program on May 28, the startups will present themselves at the TechFounders Demo Day in front of an audience consisting of venture capital firms, business angels, industry representatives, experienced founders and the media.

Press contact

Markus Bosch
Senior Communications Manager
UnternehmerTUM GmbH
Tel +49 89-18 94 69-1327 | Fax +49 89-18 94 69-1199
bosch@unternehmertum.de

TechFounders

TechFounders is the 20-week tech-startup accelerator program that strategically coaches startups, brings them together with established businesses, and prepares them for the next venture capital round with individual coaching and a broad mentoring network. A total of 101 startups have joined the accelerator program since 2015. With TechFounders, UnternehmerTUM strengthens its role as a central platform for cooperation between startups and companies. Together with UnternehmerTUM's innovation consultancy B.Neo, TechFounders also operates the SAP.io accelerator program in Munich and the RESPOND Accelerator Program for the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt.

UnternehmerTUM - Europe's leading center for innovation and business creation

UnternehmerTUM is a unique platform for the development of innovations. UnternehmerTUM actively identifies innovative technologies and initiates new business through the systematic networking of talents, technologies, capital and customers.

UnternehmerTUM offers founders and startups a complete service from the initial idea to IPO. A team of more than 250 experienced entrepreneurs, including scientists and investors, supports startups with business creation, market entry and financing – also with venture capital. For industry partners, UnternehmerTUM is a central platform for cooperation with new companies, and for expansion of their innovative strength and culture.

Founded in 2002 by the entrepreneur Susanne Klatten, UnternehmerTUM is the leading center for innovation and business creation in Europe with more than 50 high-growth technology startups every year - including Celonis, Konux, and Liliun.