

The Business Booster recognises biggest breakthroughs in sustainable energy

Solaris Offgrid awarded €10k at leading innovation event

Barcelona, Spain – 24 November 2016

[The Business Booster 2016 \(TBB\)](#), the leading innovation event in sustainable energy, saw more than 150 start-ups pitch their innovations to 300 industry professionals. Hosted by [InnoEnergy](#), the innovation engine for Europe's energy industry, the two-day event culminated today with [Solaris Offgrid](#) being awarded €10,000 by a panel of expert judges for their breakthrough modular home system.

Solaris Offgrid's aim is to meet the energy needs of more than 550 million sub-Saharan Africans in an energy efficient and affordable way. The smart solar technology costs less than kerosene (an environmentally harmful fuel that's widely used in Africa), is paid off by users weekly and has already been installed in over 800 households.

Siten Mandalia, Co-Founder and CEO of Solaris Offgrid, said: "A further 100 houses will be able to obtain clean energy from this money. This award is crucially important for us to maintain growth and allows us to scale our business. The visibility we will receive from this award will also support our business to attract further investment – in fact, it has already spurred on further investments."

The second and third prizes of €3,000 were awarded to [Vane Compressor](#) and [Glowee](#) respectively. Vane Compressor is a proven, highly efficient and reliable industrial compressor. Glowee is a bio-lighting system that doesn't consume electricity, is a renewable growing system and emits low levels of CO₂.

Elena Bou, Innovation Director at InnoEnergy, said: "There is no single solution – or silver bullet – to solve the planet's energy problems. But when provided with the right support and working as part of a wider ecosystem, innovations such as Solaris Offgrid can help change the world."

www.innoenergy.com

During TBB Diego Pavia, CEO of InnoEnergy, announced that the organisation is currently backing 162 start-ups, and has raised €33 million of external investment. He added: “TBB has fully supported our main business aim of driving the growth, visibility and commercialisation of sustainable energy innovations. Many transactions took place between small and large energy players over the two days, which will work to enrich Europe’s energy ecosystem.”

Thirty-two countries were represented by 600 attendees, made up of more than 150 start-ups, venture capitalists and major industry players including ENGIE, Principle Power, Schneider Electric and Veolia. Delegates came together to discuss the theme of this year’s event: ‘changing business models of the energy sector’ and participate in 720 minutes of networking, which led to a number of transactions.

Additional highlights from the event included a keynote from Peter Carlsson, former VP supply chain for Tesla Motors, which focused on battery storage and his vision to develop a gigafactory in Scandinavia. Attendees also had the opportunity to question representatives from leading utilities companies, start-ups and industry leaders. The final day of the show saw a roundtable on open innovation –the combining of internal and external ideas and paths to market to advance the development of new technologies – with participants from EDP Inovação, ENGIE, Principle Power, Schneider Electric and Veolia.

TBB 2016 took place at the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya in Barcelona. Next year’s TBB will be taking place in Amsterdam. For more information visit tbb.kic-innoenergy.com

Ends

About InnoEnergy

InnoEnergy is the innovation engine for sustainable energy across Europe.

The challenge is big, but our goal is simple: to achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe. Innovation is the solution. New ideas, products and services that make a real difference, new businesses and new people to deliver them to market.

At InnoEnergy we support and invest in innovation at every stage of the journey – from classroom to end-customer. With our network of partners we build connections across Europe, bringing together inventors and industry, graduates and employers, researchers and entrepreneurs, businesses and markets.

We work in three essential areas of the innovation mix:

- Education to help create an informed and ambitious workforce that understands the demands of sustainability and the needs of industry.
- Innovation Projects to bring together ideas, inventors and industry to create commercially attractive technologies that deliver real results to customers.
- Business Creation Services to support entrepreneurs and start-ups who are expanding Europe’s energy ecosystem with their innovative offerings.

Bringing these disciplines together maximises the impact of each, accelerates the development of market-ready solutions, and creates a fertile environment in which we can sell the innovative results of our work.