

Global recognition for InnoEnergy supported start-ups

Gulplug and Sylfen take top prizes at BigBooster Grand Final

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[Gulplug](#) and [Sylfen](#), two start-ups supported by InnoEnergy – the European sustainable energy innovation engine – are celebrating their wins at the BigBooster Grand Final in Lyon, France last week.

The BigBooster is an international non-profit acceleration programme that helps innovative start-ups and projects in bio and health, global impact and informative tech expand their international reach with a focus on the French, US and Chinese innovation ecosystems.

Winners were chosen for their impact on society, market attractiveness, the innovative nature of their business proposition, competitive position and overall quality of application.

Gulplug, winner of the Informative Tech Award, is the developer of two devices – a magnetic plug that connects machines to electrical power and a sensor that links devices to the internet. Global Impact Award winner, Sylfen, has created a distributed renewable generation solution with integrated energy storage for buildings and eco-districts.

Richard Biagioni, CEO of InnoEnergy France, says: “We are Europe’s largest sustainable energy accelerator, currently supporting more than 170 start-ups across Europe – providing funding and business support commercialisation. The fact that two of our start-ups took the top prizes in a global award – out of 500 applicants – goes to show the impressive quality of our portfolio.”

More than 500 start-ups applied for the programme – 100 of which were chosen to attend a three-day intensive booster camp in Lyon last November. From there, the 20 most promising projects were invited to a second three-day booster camp in Boston, US in February 2017. The sessions set out to test and improve the start-ups’ international value proposition and strategy using guidance from industry-leading mentors and experts, including representatives from EDF, Engie and Veolia.

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InnoEnergy is supported by the EIT,
a body of the European Union

Biagioni continues: “InnoEnergy is on a mission to help its start-ups learn from successes all over the world. Boston is a world-leader when it comes to innovation in sustainable energy. There is a lot ambitious energy companies can learn from Boston-based businesses as they strive to grow into new markets.”

The start-ups received mentoring from business experts, attended a panel discussion on how to set up business in the US, and guided tours with the likes of Greentown Labs, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Schneider Electric in Boston. They were also invited to attend the Grand Final at the Cité Centre des Congrès in Lyon last week, where Gulplug and Sylfen received the highest recognition. The winners will also attend a bootcamp in Shanghai and Shenzhen, China later this year.

Another start-up supported by InnoEnergy – [HySiLabs](#), the creator of an emission-free hydrogen-based liquid fuel – also made it to the final 10.

InnoEnergy has supported Gulplug, HySiLabs and Sylfen on its Highway programme for a combined total of five years. The Highway is a tailored offering for innovative early-stage start-ups in Europe that aims to support companies on their journey to commercial success.

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About InnoEnergy

Achieving a sustainable energy sector in Europe is a triple challenge: ensuring security of supply, reducing costs to eliminate fuel poverty and reducing environmentally damaging emissions.

InnoEnergy was established in 2010 and is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to address this challenge. Like all Knowledge and Innovation Communities established by the EIT, InnoEnergy brings together the three elements of the so-called Knowledge Triangle - higher education, research and industry – to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing Europe today.

By connecting the elements of the knowledge triangle with Europe’s entrepreneurs and innovators, InnoEnergy plays a critical role in increasing sustainable growth and competitiveness in Europe, reinforcing the innovation capacity of the EU Member States, creating the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and preparing them for innovative breakthroughs in the future.

InnoEnergy works with universities, research centres and industry partners across Europe. It helps connect ideas, experience and skills across the continent to help create new employees, new technologies, new products and new businesses that will create a sustainable energy sector along with jobs and growth opportunities for Europe.

About BigBooster

Founded in April 2015, BigBooster is a unique international non-profit acceleration program for startups with cutting edge innovation in the fields of Bio and Health, Informative Tech and Global

Impact. Organized between Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France) and Boston (Massachusetts, USA), 2 worldwide renowned hubs with strong innovation ecosystems, its goal is to become the largest European competition for early-stage startups with a global outreach and namely from the Europe-Middle East-Africa zone. Bolstered by many public and private partners, BigBooster is organized by the Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon. For additional information, please visit: www.bigbooster.org

About the Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon

Created in 2012, the Fondation pour l'Université de Lyon was conceived out of shared belief by the region's economic sector, the University of Lyon and public stakeholders that socioeconomic development of the region and the promotion of its higher education and research go hand-in-hand. Presided over by Bernard Bigot, the Foundation supports the University of Lyon in its ambition to become one of Europe's top ten higher education and research clusters, promotes its influence on an international scale and contributes to its continuing excellence in the region.

Partners of the project

This program is implemented thanks to the support of: the Métropole de Lyon, the city of Boston, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Université de Lyon, MassChallenge, theFrench Tech, Aéroports de Lyon, Sanofi, Schneider Electric, Capgemini Consulting, Bpifrance, Keolis, Air France, Delta, EDF, Institut Mérieux, Klesia, Cegid, TBWA Corporate, Seb, Oriol, Michelin, BNP Paribas and Lafarge Holcim...

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