

KICKSTART 2018 LEADS TO MORE THAN 35 COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN STARTUPS AND ESTABLISHED CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Swiss innovation acceleration program Kickstart culminates tonight with the announcement of numerous technological partnerships and Proof of Concepts.

ZURICH, 9 November 2018 – The innovation acceleration program [Kickstart 2018](#) has led to more than 35 collaborations between the participating startups and established organizations. After four months of intense work, the Proof of Concepts (PoCs) and other partnerships with Coop, Credit Suisse, Migros, Swisscom, City of Zurich, ETH Zurich, Mercator Foundation Switzerland, Mondelēz International, University of Zurich, ZHAW and many more will be announced tonight at a grand Closing Ceremony at [Kraftwerk](#).

Kickstart, a program of [Impact Hub Zurich](#), launched in 2015 by [digitalswitzerland](#), bridges the gap between later-stage startups, corporations, cities, universities, and institutions to accelerate deep tech innovations with positive impact. For the third edition, 30 Swiss and international tech startups had moved into the collaboration space Kraftwerk in Zurich, where they met with leading corporations and organizations aiming at launching joint projects. More than 70 such partnership projects have emerged from the programme since its inception. This year's program focused on FinTech & Crypto, Food & Retail Tech, Smart Cities & Infrastructure and, for the first time in Zurich, on EdTech & Learning. In addition to the 30 startups, five intrapreneurship teams from Credit Suisse, Migros and Swisscom participated in the program.

Here is the overview of the 2018 pilot projects and partnerships:

(Details at the bottom of the media release)

The [EdTech & Learning Vertical](#) saw 10 collaborations:

- [ETH Zurich](#) and [Differ](#) (Norway) collaborate to build digital learning communities for (ETH) students by testing Differ's software in a pilot project with one ETH bachelor course engaging more than 500 students.
- [ETH Zurich](#) and [Potential.ly](#) (UK) explore a collaboration to support (ETH) students' professional development paths and career-readiness in the scope of a pilot with selected students doing company internships.
- [Mercator Foundation Switzerland](#) is executing a joint pilot project with [WriteReader](#) (Denmark), a platform that helps children to learn reading and writing by creating their own books at school, as well as [Jacobs Foundation](#) and [Dybuster](#) (CH) with different schools.
- [Migros Club School](#) will start a PoC with [Labster](#) (Denmark) aiming at evaluating a new method for creating digital language learning content in 3D Virtual Reality environments and the impact of such content on client engagement.
- [Swisscom](#) and [TEACHY](#) (CH) are collaborating in a PoC to explore opportunities in the field of 1on1 personal learning between Swisscom experts and Swisscom employees.
- The [University of Zurich](#) will cooperate with [Labster](#) (Denmark) to explore laboratory simulations and virtual reality in university science instruction.
- The Career Services of the [University of Zurich](#) is developing application opportunities with [Potential.ly](#) (UK) to use the platform to increase career readiness of students at UZH.
- The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the [University of Zurich](#) will work with [Differ](#) (Norway) to increase collaboration amongst students and teaching assistants by using the platform.
- The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the [University of Zurich](#) will collaborate with [Potential.ly](#) (UK) in a pilot project to promote digital skills training of its employees.

- [ZHAW](#) is planning a PoC with the Bernese educational startup [TEACHY](#) (CH) in the field of student tutoring to promote the educational careers of its students.

In the [Fintech & Crypto](#) Vertical, 10 PoCs and other collaborations with Kickstart partners were agreed on:

- [Credit Suisse](#) and the Switzerland-based company [Altoo AG](#), offering solutions for wealthy individuals, stated their intention to work together in the area of future private banking platform solutions.
- [Credit Suisse](#) and [Asteria](#) (Sweden) intend to test opportunities in cash flow advisory for small & medium-sized corporate clients.
- [Credit Suisse](#) and [Gauss Algorithmic](#) (Czech Republic) intend to work together in the area of data analytics.
- [Credit Suisse](#) and [Reportix](#) (Germany) are exploring the potential for digitization and automated processing of documents and forms using non-proprietary Ricardian Contracts (human and machine-readable contracts).
- [Credit Suisse](#) and [YUKKA Lab AG](#) (Germany) intend to collaborate with regards to Yukka's value proposition to use augmented language and machine learning to analyze global financial news from trusted sources.
- [Swisscom](#) is exploring the opportunities of "Open Banking" for the Swiss financial industry with the Fintech companies [Altoo AG](#) (CH) and [YUKKA Lab AG](#) (Germany).
- [Swisscom](#) is launching a PoC with the Norwegian startup [Fintechdb](#) (Norway) to better map the Swiss FinTech ecosystem.
- [AXA](#) is collaborating with [Reportix](#) to explore opportunities for new insurance products providing trust, transparency and automation created by blockchain-based platforms.
- [PwC Switzerland](#) and [YUKKA Lab AG](#) (Germany) signed a Letter of Intent to progress the development of joint business cases in the field of Augmented Language Intelligence for the financial industry.
- [C4DR](#) and [Trakti](#) (Italy) have agreed to test the Trakti Smart Contract platform with C4DR's Blockchain-powered Supply Chain Finance Business and Security Token Factory.

The [Food & Retail Tech](#) Vertical saw 9 collaborative projects resulting from the programme:

- [Coop](#) and [Alver](#) (CH) are looking into integrating Alver branded products into the Coop assortment as well as into using their innovative vegan protein for product development.
- [Coop](#) and [LuckaBox](#) (CH) are running two Proofs of Concepts to explore potential benefits of a new ultra-local urban distribution model as well as using LuckaBox' cloud-based technology for effective last mile deliveries.
- [Coop](#) and [microPow](#) (CH) are collaborating with the goal to bring enhanced, shelf-stable, natural microPow aromas into a variety of food products.
- [Migros](#) will start two PoCs with [LuckaBox](#) (CH). The [Migros Cooperative Zurich](#) launches a pilot project with the startup and thereby expands its range of services. From November 2019, customers of Migros City will be able to have their purchases delivered directly to their home.
- [M-Industry](#) will start a PoC with [Besso](#) (Germany) aiming at testing Besso tea pads in the Swiss market.
- [Mondelēz International](#) and [Alver](#) (CH) are exploring the application of a new sustainable plant-based protein source in different snack forms.
- [Mondelēz International](#) and [microPow](#) (CH) are looking at opportunities to better preserve high-value ingredients in snacks to make their benefits fully available to consumers.

The [Smart Cities & Infrastructure Vertical](#) Vertical resulted in 6 collaborations:

- [Empa](#) is collaborating with [BlockDox](#) (UK) to implement their IoT and AI-driven sensor analytics solution at the NEST research and innovation building.
- [Empa](#) and [Fleco Power](#) (CH) collaborate to assess the potential and technical implementation for using the electricity consumption flexibility of Empa NEST demonstrator to help stabilize the local electricity grid in Dübendorf.
- [ewz](#) is collaborating with [BlockDox](#) (UK) to implement their patented IoT and AI-driven sensor analytics solution at the collaboration space Kraftwerk in Zurich Selnu.

- [ewz](#) and [Fleco Power](#) (CH) are performing a pilot project to test a control unit in a charging station for electric vehicles operated by ewz.
- [ewz](#) is collaborating with [Hivemind](#) (CH) to set up different IoT/LoRaWAN use cases and implement and visualize them on the Hivemind-IoT platform.
- The [City of Zurich](#) and [Pediis](#) are in final discussions to agree on a collaboration to make calls for selected services accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. During the process of establishing the project, [Impact Hub Zürich](#) will continue to support Pediis.

"It is exciting to see such a great number of collaborations between the startups and the partners that are growing the Kickstart Community," said Kickstart Co-Lead, Katka Letzing. *"This shows that Kickstart has the potential to truly connect technology startups from all over the world with the Swiss innovation ecosystem."*

Next to the cooperation between the startups and the large partners, some of the startups have also initiated partnerships with each other: For example, [Sharing Academy](#) (Spain) and [TEACHY](#) (CH) agreed on a PoC to combine their forces of business and software development with the purpose of improving education in Switzerland. In the FinTech Vertical, [ResonanceX](#) and [Altoo AG](#) are teaming up for a joint exploration in providing next-generation post-trade information for structured product investments to wealthy individuals. Kickstart alumni [PriceHubble](#) and [Altoo](#) explore possibilities on real estate valuation based on machine learning for comprehensive digital wealth management. And [YUKKA Lab AG](#) has entered into a partnership with the Kickstart alumni [AAAccell](#).

In addition, [Mondays](#) has partnered with [Diversify](#) to offer corporates and startups the opportunity to tangibly deliver on their top level diversity goals, by providing women's essential products in the workplace. In the meantime, Kickstart supported the startup [AVUXI](#) from UK in closing a partnership deal with 3 Swiss online travel companies, including [Nezasa](#) and [Bedfinder](#). Swiss startup [vlot](#) got support to work on closing two partnership deals in the field of InsurTech.

Furthermore, during the few weeks of Kickstart 2018, the startups have raised 6.5 million CHF funding from international and Swiss investors.

New Cybersecurity Vertical in 2019 in cooperation with SATW

In the coming year, Kickstart aims at tapping into new technology areas: Together with the [Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW](#), the program will launch a Cybersecurity Vertical in order to foster innovation in the fields of IT-, information- and data security. Additionally, Kickstart is in advanced conversations for a vertical on health technologies in Zurich.

The program has already agreed on several partnerships for the 2019 edition: [Coop](#), [Swisscom](#), [Stiftung Mercator Schweiz](#), [Axpo](#), [Stäubli](#), [Gebert Rüt Stiftung](#), [CSEM](#), and others have been confirmed as partners for next year's program.

Kickstart 2018 will end tonight with a grand Closing Ceremony, starting at 5pm (doors open at 4pm). Interested journalists can register for the event via hello@kickstart-accelerator.com. At 8pm, Kickstart opens the Kraftwerk doors for the public to join the final party.

PoCs and partnerships in detail

Collaborative projects with the partner organizations of Kickstart

EdTech & Learning	
Differ with ETH Zurich	ETH Zurich and Differ collaborate to build digital learning communities for ETH students by testing Differ's software in a pilot project with one ETH bachelor course engaging more than 500 students. Differ is an online learning community used by students to help each other in their studies, and by universities to build learning communities for courses and programs. Benefits of online learning communities may include increased student collaboration, assignment submissions and course completion.
Differ with University of Zurich	The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Zurich will implement Differ's course collaboration application in several lectures starting in the fall semester of 2019 to give first-semester students the opportunity to network, to exchange ideas and to support each other. The learning community is supervised by teaching assistants.
Labster with Migros Club School	Migros Club School has agreed on a PoC with Labster. The project aims to evaluate the impact and added value of using learning simulations in 3D Virtual Reality environments to increase the level of engagement of current and potential clients for Migros Club School language courses. Migros Club School and Labster will work together to create a small set of language simulations in 3D VR using a prototype open-version of Labster's simulation building software. Migros Club School will be enabled by Labster to run independent focus group testing, using the prototype language simulations, to determine if an increased client engagement can be observed and has potential to positively impact language learning outcomes.
Labster with University of Zurich	Science Education scholars from the University of Zurich and virtual lab specialists from Labster will co-produce digital professional development opportunities on the effective use of laboratory simulations and virtual reality in university science instruction.
Potential.ly with ETH Zurich	ETH Zurich and Potential.ly explore a collaboration to support ETH students' professional development paths and career-readiness in the scope of a pilot with selected students doing company internships. A pilot project shall demonstrate the positive impact of Potential.ly on students' self-awareness, ability to plan their personal and professional competence development, as well benefits for programme administrators to run personalised coaching and career readiness programmes.
Potential.ly with University of Zurich	The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the department for IT Training and Continuing Education of the University of Zurich will collaborate with Potential.ly in a pilot project. The goal is to analyze and promote digital literacy of its employees.
Potential.ly with University of Zurich	The Career Services of the University of Zurich is developing application opportunities with Potential.ly to use the platform to increase career readiness of students at UZH. This includes adding new interactivity to current career resources and services, as well as new concepts for career readiness awards and employer-led challenges. In addition, a communication concept for the launch of the platform will be developed, drawing on the experience of Potential.ly in the UK.

TEACHY with ZHAW	ZHAW is planning a PoC with the Bernese educational start-up TEACHY in the field of student tutoring to promote the educational careers of its students. The focus will be on the faculty of Business Information Technology. The practical relevance will be achieved through the active involvement of interested companies from the ICT sector.
TEACHY with Swisscom	Swisscom has agreed on a PoC with TEACHY. The pilot aims to examine the integration of the 1on1 learning model and MatchMaking system of TEACHY into the working culture of Swisscom. "MeetTheExpert" aims to connect Swisscom employees with the right internal expert at the right time within a few clicks. They meet each other online or in person and share knowledge in an efficient way to provide value.
WriteReader with Mercator Foundation Switzerland as well as Jacobs Foundation and Dybuster with WriteReader	WriteReader is an interactive and interest-based application where kids become authors. The kids can create their own books and add pictures. Supported by Mercator Foundation Switzerland, Jacobs Foundation and Dybuster, WriteReader is tested with early learners in different public schools for several weeks. The research question is how the application raises motivation and learning success in reading and writing.
FinTech & Crypto	
Altoo AG with Credit Suisse	Credit Suisse and the Switzerland-based company Altoo AG, offering solutions for wealthy individuals, stated their intention to work together in the area of future private banking platform solutions.
Altoo AG with Swisscom and YUKKA Lab AG	Swisscom, a leading provider of infrastructure and operation services for more than 170 banks in Switzerland, is teaming up with the Fintech companies Altoo AG and YUKKA Lab AG to explore the opportunities of Open Banking for the Swiss financial industry. Altoo's technology for aggregation of bankable and non-bankable assets is an innovative approach within the wealth management sector on how wealthy private individuals are interacting with their total wealth and their service providers. YUKKA Lab empowers finance experts to deliver advisory excellence and make better informed investment decisions by providing a unique overview of the news sentiment trends for every company, index, and industry as well as investment alerts for trend shifts based on the overall market sentiment.
Asteria with Credit Suisse	Credit Suisse intends to explore with Asteria on a potential collaboration. The idea is to test Smart Cash Flow, a next-generation business banking software beneficiary to small and medium-sized enterprise clients. Thanks to Smart Cash Flow clients benefit from a cash flow advisory service using artificial intelligence. The software can leverage the client's proprietary accounting data in order to improve the client service.
Fintechdb with Swisscom	Swisscom, Switzerland's leading telecom company and one of its leading IT companies, is testing the technology of the Norwegian startup Fintechdb as of November 2018 to create an interactive and digital Fintech Map. Objectives: A better understanding and deeper analysis of the market through data research, a solid decision basis for possible collaborations and investments as well as a contribution to the ecosystem.
Gauss Algorithmic with Credit Suisse	Credit Suisse has agreed to further explore on a collaboration with Gauss Algorithmic. The vision is to test an analytics platform to better understand client behaviour and journeys at online and offline spaces. The compiled data would be available in real-time and would be compliant to highest data security requirements.

Reportix with Credit Suisse	Credit Suisse and Reportix are exploring the potential for digitization and automated processing of documents and forms using non-proprietary Ricardian Contracts (human and machine-readable contracts).
Reportix with AXA	AXA and Reportix are collaborating to explore opportunities for new insurance products providing trust, transparency and automation created by blockchain-based platforms. The exploration targets digitizing and automating contracts as non proprietary Ricardian (human and machine readable) contracts.
Trakti with C4DR	C4DR and Trakti have agreed to test the Trakti Smart Contract platform with C4DR's Blockchain-powered Supply Chain Finance Business and Security Token Factory. C4DR, launched in 2017 by Eric Van der Kleij, expects Trakti to help them streamline and audit smart contract negotiation and implementation across a range of their Blockchain Portfolio businesses and projects.
YUKKA Lab AG with Credit Suisse	Credit Suisse is evaluating opportunities with YUKKA Lab, a Berlin-based Start-up to augment and leverage their research and advisory capabilities based on the YUKKA News & Trend Lab software.
YUKKA Lab AG with PwC Switzerland	PwC Switzerland and YUKKA Lab AG signed a Letter of Intent to progress the development of joint business cases in the field of Augmented Language Intelligence for the financial industry.
Food & Retail Tech	
Alver with Coop	Alver and Coop join forces to address the growing need for healthy and sustainable protein. Alver's innovative vegan protein products provide a tasty solution to plant-based meals addressing the growing segment of flexitarians, vegetarians and vegans. Their micro-algae "golden chlorella ", is neutral in taste and has many possible applications within the food industry.
Alver with Mondelēz International	Mondelēz International is working on a Proof of Concept with Alver. The objective is to understand if Alver's Golden Chlorella can be successfully used to enhance the protein content of some popular snacking food forms, and what the impact on taste, texture and nutrition would be. They hope that together they can create delicious snacks that fit perfectly into the lives of people who want to get protein from sustainable plant-based sources.
Besso with Migros	M-Industry has agreed on a Proof of Concept Project with Besso. The project aims to test the demand for a healthy tea experience brewed by baristas, and it will allow both companies to better understand the consumers preferences and needs in this field.
LuckaBox with Coop	Coop and LuckaBox have joined forces in two pilot projects to look into the opportunity to address the consumers' increased wish for immediate delivery as well as optimizing internal logistic challenges. LuckaBox's cloud-based logistic solution is believed to solve a logistic challenge of reaching urban areas which are closed for vehicles during most hours of the day. Further fast deliveries from the main distribution centers to smaller outlets will be explored.
LuckaBox with Migros	Migros has decided to run two PoCs with the startup LuckaBox. The Migros Cooperative Zurich launches a pilot project with the startup and thereby expands its range of services. Customers of Migros City can now have their purchases delivered directly to their home in a freely selectable time window. The service can be used from November 2019, home deliveries are offered throughout the city of Zurich from 9 CHF.

microPow with Coop	Coop is collaborating with microPow aiming at implementing enhanced, shelf-stable microPow aromas into the broad range of Coop food products. The microPow technology enhances aroma through a new microstructure improving the perception and stability of natural aromas during processing and storage. This will allow Coop to produce more natural, premium food products at reduced costs.
microPow with Mondelēz International	Mondelez International has agreed to a Proof of Concept with MicroPow. The assessment aims to evaluate the performance of MicroPow's controlled delivery technology to preserve high-valued ingredients in snacks through processing and storage; so that the benefits of these ingredients will be released during eating with maximum impact and benefit to the consumer. This will enable the increasing use of natural, less processed, high-valued ingredients in snacks to better serve consumer needs and preferences while delivering benefits to both the industry and the environment.
Smart Cities & Infrastructure	
BlockDox with Empa Empa	Empa and BlockDox are conducting a pilot project on the utilisation of BlockDox IoT and AI-driven sensor analytics solution at the NEST research and innovation building. The aim of the project is to integrate the sensors into Empa's smart building demonstrator to access possibilities for optimised room utilisation, energy consumption and improving occupants' health, wellbeing and productivity. The project might lead to findings which are relevant to the whole building sector of Switzerland.
BlockDox with ewz / City of Zurich	ewz and BlockDox are implementing a pilot project utilising BlockDox's patented IoT and AI-driven sensor analytics solution at ewz Kraftwerk in Zurich Selnu. The project is supported by the City of Zurich and aimed at making the meeting rooms and co-working space smarter. By applying artificial intelligence to real-time data about how these areas are used, important questions about optimising space utilisation can be answered.
Fleco Power with Empa	Empa and Fleco Power conduct a PoC to assess the potential and technical implementation for using the electricity consumption flexibility of Empa NEST demonstrator to reduce peak loads in the local distribution grid. Ultimately, this project might lead to basic findings for actively supporting electricity grid stability from a prosumer level. Fleco Power generates a set of optimization targets taking into account the current state of the electricity grid. These parameters are then passed on to the Empa NEST building management system which uses them to control the individual consumers within the premises.
Fleco Power with ewz	ewz and Fleco Power jointly work on increasing the flexibility of electric vehicle charging stations in the ewz distribution grid. For this, Fleco Power installs its control hardware to enable ewz to directly influence the charging power of the charging station. The project helps to gain insight into the technological solutions and processes required for enabling prosumer flexibility in future electricity grids.
Hivemind with ewz	ewz and Hivemind aim to make smart city use cases tangible and this way provide hands-on experience and insights about the benefits and values. All different use cases like people counter, water level measurement, air quality measurement, noise detection, etc. are enabled by the IoT/LoRaWAN Network of ewz and are implemented on the Hivemind-IoT platform. The platform provides easy access to collected data and information of all use cases and provides the possibility to combine data and information in order to make smarter decisions.
Pedius and City of Zurich / Impact Hub Zurich	The City of Zurich and Pedius are in final discussions to agree on a collaboration to make calls for selected services accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. By

	<p>applying Padius' technology, the City of Zurich could be the first city in Switzerland where deaf citizens will be able to call selected services without intermediaries. Impact Hub is supporting the adoption of the Padius technology that uses text to speech and voice recognition technology to transform a chat in a phone call in real time.</p>
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Further partnerships and projects

Startup Collaboration: Altoo AG and ResonanceX	<p>ResonanceX and Altoo AG are exploring the opportunities for providing next-generation post-trade information for structured product investments for wealthy individuals. Altoo (CH) has developed a wealth platform for the aggregation of bankable and non-bankable assets. It is an innovative approach on how wealthy private individuals are interacting with their total wealth and their service providers. ResonanceX is a UK-based digital marketplace that leverages end-to-end automation and emerging technologies to transform and optimise the way to design, distribute and invest in Structured Investments.</p>
Startup Collaboration: Altoo AG and PriceHubble	<p>Kickstart 2017 Alumni PriceHubble and Altoo AG explore possibilities on real estate valuation based on machine learning for comprehensive digital wealth management. By integrating PriceHubble's digital real estate evaluation solutions, the customers of Altoo will enjoy a level of transparency regarding their real-estate assets that is so far typical only for bankable assets.</p>
Startup Collaboration: Sharing Academy and TEACHY	<p>Sharing Academy and TEACHY combine their forces of business, customer and software development with the purpose of improving education in Switzerland. On one hand, TEACHY will be able to grow faster using the highly scalable platform from Sharing Academy. On the other hand, Sharing Academy will be able to step foot in the Swiss market with the local insights of TEACHY.</p>
Startup Collaboration: YUKKA Lab AG and AAAccell	<p>YUKKA Lab, technology leader in the field of augmented language intelligence and context-based texts analysis for the financial industry, and the Kickstart 2017 alumni AAAccell, a leading swiss quantitative asset management provider, announced their future partnership. The goal of the collaboration is to build a sentiment-quant decision engine to combine YUKKA Lab's excellent sentiment signals with AAAccell's state of the art AI quant engine to create strong combined market signals and investment recommendations.</p>
Partnership between Mondays and Diversify	<p>Mondays and Diversify are working together to offer corporates and startups the opportunity to tangibly deliver on their top level diversity goals. By providing women's essential products, the project enables companies to demonstrate that women are valued in the workplace. According to McKinsey the most gender diverse companies experience above average profitability.</p>
Partnership between AVUXI and online travel companies	<p>AVUXI has agreed to cooperate with 3 Swiss companies specialized in online travel; amongst others Nezasa and Bedfinder, which is part of the Hotelplan Group. The cooperation with all three companies starts in November and AVUXI will be supplying its leading TopPlace™ products to the new partners.</p>
Partnership between The Energy Audit and Impact Hub Zurich	<p>Impact Hub Zurich facilitates The Energy Audit to conduct a training course on Machine Learning in Energy Data Analysis in Viadukt co-working space on 26th November 2018. Energy experts and managers attending will learn about theory and the practical application of machine learning in energy data analyses and ISO50'001 environments.</p>
Intrapreneurship Team: BankPay (Credit Suisse)	<p>BankPay provides a mobile payment method that is quick, convenient and secure.</p>

Intrapreneurship Team: Menu Casa (Migros)	Menu Casa is a home delivery service of delicious food, from breakfast to dinner, for people in their prime age at home.
Intrapreneurship Team: OLIQ (Migros)	The innovative oral spray OLIQ is the easiest, fastest and most bioavailable way of taking vitamins and natural essentials.
Intrapreneurship Team: Online Coaching Club School Migros (Migros)	Book your expert when, where and as often as you like – Online Coaching Club School Migros is working on an online coaching platform for personal and professional development.
Intrapreneurship Team: Robo VC (Swisscom)	Robo VC uses big data and artificial intelligence so venture capital investors and business angels can identify promising startups early and seize the right investment opportunities.

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About Kickstart:

Kickstart bridges the gap between later-stage startups, corporations, cities, universities, and institutions to accelerate deep tech innovations with positive impact. Science and engineering driven technologies have the potential to transform humanity’s biggest challenges into solvable problems. These challenges require unprecedented collaboration between powerful established organizations and audacious entrepreneurs (you can find insights on collaborations between startups and corporations in the guide “[Kickstarting Collaboration](#)”). Each year, Kickstart brings around 100 such entrepreneurs to Switzerland to collaborate with key players for proof-of-concepts, pilot projects, and other innovation partnerships. The program is free of charge (no fees, no equity) for selected growth ventures and provides exceptional access to the executives and decision-makers of Kickstart’s partners.

Kickstart is a program of [Impact Hub Zürich](#) and was launched 2015 by [digitalswitzerland](#). In 2018, Kickstart runs four verticals (EdTech & Learning, FinTech & Crypto, Food & Retail Tech and Smart Cities & Infrastructure) together with established partner organizations across industries and the private and public domain: [Coop](#), [Credit Suisse](#), [Migros](#) and [Swisscom](#) as well as [City of St. Gallen](#), [City of Zurich](#), [Department of Education of the Canton of Zurich](#), [ETH Zürich](#), [Gebert-Rüf-Stiftung](#), [Mercator Foundation Switzerland](#), [Mondelēz International](#), [Swiss Federal Office for Energy](#), [University of Zurich](#), [ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences](#), [AXA](#), [csem](#), [Empa](#), [EY](#), [Helbling](#), [PwC Switzerland](#), [Stäubli](#), [Swisslinx](#) and more.