



Press release

Trends of the Swiss Innovation Challenge 2023: Construction and ancillary construction

From 7 to 9 June, the participants in the Swiss Innovation Challenge (SIC) 2023 completed their first pitch. This year, there was a particularly high level of innovation in the construction and ancillary construction sectors. A total of 50 companies are now eagerly awaiting the second pitch in September.

Pratteln, 13 June 2023 – Last week saw the successful completion of the first pitch of this year's Swiss Innovation Challenge: From 7 to 9 June 2023, the participating companies presented their business ideas to the 10-member jury. The pitch was held in the auditorium of the conference and events centre (TEC) of the Haus der Wirtschaft (HDW) in Pratteln. The entrepreneurs had three minutes in which to convince the jury of their vision and to make it through to the next round as one of 50 innovation projects. (An overview of the 50 companies is available [here](#).)

At the first pitch, there was a particular focus on the level of innovation as well as the customer benefit and the presentation. In the 9th edition of the Swiss Innovation Challenge, the field of participants proved to be exceptionally heterogeneous once more. However, one sector emerged as particularly innovation-driven in 2023. "This year, the innovative strength of the construction and ancillary construction sector is striking," says Stefan Philippi from the FHNW, head of the Swiss Innovation Challenge office. He conducts the admission interview with all participants and thus has the deepest insight into the diversity and the individual innovations. He emphasises: "The Swiss Innovation Challenge shows once again that the innovation competition 'made in Baselland' is absolutely on the cutting edge and shows trends accordingly".

Second pitch in September

The 50 companies that succeeded in convincing the jury of their business idea at the first pitch will now enter the next round. Over the coming months, the participants will be able to attend further seminars and benefit from the free coaching and mentoring program. At the second pitch, the jury will be focusing more strongly on the business plan, i.e. the business model which provides the basis of the innovation idea. In this context, on 6 and 7 September 2023, 20 companies will be chosen to pitch in the final round of the Swiss Innovation Challenge 2023, when the overall winners will be chosen.

850 projects funded since the launch in 2014

Since its launch in 2014 and its first event in 2015, the Swiss Innovation Challenge has supported over 850 projects and contributed to the creation of more than 1,650 jobs. To date, more than CHF 300,000 has been awarded in prize money, and CHF 650,000 has been granted in the form of support services as seminars, coaching and mentoring. Baselland Chamber of Commerce (WIKA), the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern

Switzerland (FHNW) and the Basellandschaftliche Kantonalbank (BLKB) are the sponsors of the Swiss Innovation Challenge.

Key dates of the Swiss Innovation Challenge 2023

Second pitch	6 and 7 September 2023
Final pitch	23 October 2023
Award ceremony on the occasion of the "Economy Day"	23 November 2023

Exclusive this year

On the occasion of the pitches, SIC is opening its doors exclusively this year. Guests will experience the pulse of the startup and innovation ecosystem live. Access is open to interested sponsors and foundations as well as members of the Baselland Chamber of Commerce.

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About the Swiss Innovation Challenge (SIC) 2023

The Swiss Innovation Challenge is the largest Swiss innovation promotion programme with competition, in which 20 finalists and one winner ("Award Winner") are selected from over 100 innovation projects in three elimination rounds ("Pitches"). The participants in the competition are SMEs and start-ups from all over Switzerland. In addition to the Award, participants can win a special prize in the "Construction" category. The competition lasts eight months. During this time, participants can take part in free, user-oriented seminars. In addition, participants have access to mentoring and coaching programmes where they are supported and encouraged with practical knowledge. In addition to these benefits, the participants and their innovation projects profit from networking events and various publicity measures. The Award Winning Ceremony will take place on the occasion of the "Tag der Wirtschaft" (Business Day) in the St. Jakobshalle Basel.

Previous SIC winners

2022 – aiEndoscopic
2021 – CondenZero
2020 – AgroSustain
2019 – Tolremo Therapeutics
2018 – skAD Labs
2017 – Topadur Pharma AG
2016 – GOLD S AG
2015 – Apex Sports LLC