

PRESS RELEASE

Switzerland, a model of innovation - The International Committee of the Red Cross and Christophe Darbellay's projects win awards

Two winners were selected at the Innovation Challenge Demo & Pitch Day event organized by digitalswitzerland: MontagnePro by former CVP President Christophe Darbellay and the ICRC platform, which brings together families separated by conflict. Among several innovative projects, a world premiere took place: the "daura" platform for buying and selling blockchain shares carried out its first secure transaction, directly from a buyer to a seller, in 2 seconds and in real time.

Zurich, April 16, 2019 - The Innovation Challenge Demo & Pitch Day event took place yesterday at the Kraftwerk in Zurich. More than 200 guests from business, science and politics attended. The objective of the Bets is to offer the opportunity for interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement ambitious, digital and measurable solutions in various fields such as e-health, e-democracy and e-mobility. Of the 22 bets present, 11 came from the first two editions and 11 from the new 2019 cohort. This year, the four members of the jury had great difficulty in choosing a single winner, which is why two winners were selected for the prize of CHF 10,000.

MontagnePro, the portal for mountain specialists

The winner of the third edition of the Innovation Challenge Demo & Pitch Day is a challenge initiated by Christophe Darbellay, politician of the CVP. The award was presented to Eric Bianco, Head of the Valais Cantonal Department of Economy, Tourism and Innovation. The objective of the Bet was to significantly increase mountain safety through a digital solution. The Bet, launched a year ago, already offers its customers real-time access to the status and qualifications of more than 1500 recognised experts such as mountain guides and ski instructors from the Valais. This is done using a blockchain application. In the future, other cantons and insurance companies will be added to the platform.

A new research service to bring torn families together

More than one million families are separated due to conflict. An analysis solution, implemented in all ICRC offices around the world, is designed to find missing relatives through a new data analysis that allows family members to be traced wherever they are. This is done in strict compliance with data protection requirements guaranteeing the protection of the data subjects.

Public prize: Powerhouses - Empowering Digital Talents

Refugees residing in Switzerland should receive comprehensive computer training at Powerhouses' two national sites. Existing digital skills of different population groups should be used and developed. At yesterday's event, the kick-off was given for the

new 2019 Bets, who will present to the jury next year. The audience has already chosen its favourite.

World premiere with daura: Digital stock transferred in real time

The crypto-stock platform, daura, developed a blockchain solution with which Swiss companies can tokenize and manage their share register digitally and automatically. During a live demonstration, the shares were transferred from one investor to another for the first time. These transactions took place without intermediaries (like a bank) and in real time.

Nicolas Bürer, Managing Director of digitalswitzerland, said: *"The spirit of innovation and the desire to create new solutions are still as strong as ever. The third edition of the Innovation Challenge Demo & Pitch Day gave rise not only to exciting innovations, but also to unexpected collaborations. Digital solutions also have the potential to survive on the international scene."*

Ivo Furrer, President of digitalswitzerland, added: *"Innovation needs cross-functional thinkers, curiosity and the ability to think outside the box. Knowledge sharing also plays a central role in the search for holistic solutions. As a think tank, the Innovation Challenge succeeds in bringing these components together and offers ideal conditions for testing and implementing creative solutions."*

About digitalswitzerland

digitalswitzerland is a combined initiative by the business community, the public sector, and academic institutions which aims to establish Switzerland as a global digital innovation hub. digitalswitzerland is active in a wide range of fields, including knowledge transfer, education, start-up ecosystems and the political framework. The association's members include over 150 of the most prominent companies, organisations and innovative locations in Switzerland. The initiative was founded in 2015.

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