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NEWS CSR INNOVATIONS

The five most interesting Polish start-ups will compete for participation in the final of the Chivas Venture competition



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The next stage of the fifth edition of the Chivas Venture competition for socially engaged start-ups is behind us. We already know the five finalists who will compete on January 15, 2020 for the title of the winner of the Polish edition and participation in the global final in Canada. The stakes are high - participation in Chivas Venture is not only a chance to win a million dollar prize, but also knowledge, experience and networking.

The Chivas brand has been continuously supporting the commitment and ingenuity of social entrepreneurs since 2014 by organizing the Chivas Venture competition. It is divided into two stages: local and international, and its aim is to select the most interesting and promising start-ups that change the world for the better through their actions.

Success is more

From among many submissions, the jury selected ten best start-ups in the first local stage of the competition. The semi-finalists had the opportunity to participate in specially prepared training courses conducted by experienced experts who help entrepreneurs consciously build competences. Among them were, among others Piotr Bucki and Kamil Koziel, who introduced the participants to the world of psychology of communication, presentation and pitch, or Bartosz Majewski, who discovered the secrets of sales and time management for them. The workshops were organized for the third time, they did not fit into the global competition schedule, but were of additional value for the participants of the Polish edition. All this so that more companies than just the winner can take advantage of the benefits offered by the competition.

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Participation in the Chivas Venture competition is not only an opportunity to obtain financial support, but also to be part of a unique platform for exchanging ideas, where participants can discuss their own interpretation of success, learn from each other and exchange experiences related to running a startup. Success according to the Chivas brand is a unique composition of values and talents that together make up a unique whole, and Chivas Venture is a reflection of this approach, which is why the brand supports people for whom success means something much more than just profits.

Agnieszka Radziszewska, Senior Brand Manager Chivas Regal at Wyborowa
Pernod Ricard.



photo by Chivas Venture

Top five

The culmination of the workshops organized as part of Chivas Venture was the selection of 5 start-ups showing the most interesting idea for development and solving contemporary social or environmental problems. Among them were:

- **Aether Biomedical** - a manufacturer of advanced hand prostheses, focusing on solving the problem of having to choose between high quality and effectiveness of the product, and lower purchase costs (only about 5% of people with amputated upper limbs use prostheses). Prostheses, which use the achievements of artificial intelligence, look and behave like real ones, providing the user with a firm grip, adjusting to the shape of the held object.
- **Handerek Technologies** - a company addressing the global problem of plastic pollution of the planet. Thanks to the patented technology that breaks the molecular structure of plastic, it enables the efficient recycling of plastic waste, turning it into a substance that can be used as a fully refined alternative fuel. The technology enables the recycling of any type of plastic, also contaminated or with an admixture of aluminum, which distinguishes Handerek Technologies on the market (currently only a small part of plastic waste is considered as recyclable).
- **MakeGrowLab** - a project focused on reducing the production of plastic packaging by replacing it with biodegradable materials. The technology proposed by the start-up is based on a process that not only does not pollute the environment, but also enriches it

(biomass is transformed into products and raw materials with the participation of microorganisms). The material can be grown in almost any conditions, it provides better oxygen insulation than paper and after use it can be decomposed in a home composter, constituting a fertilizer for the cultivation of other food products.

- **SolHotAir** - a start-up producing highly efficient air solar collectors - their efficiency is 20% higher than the best solutions available on the market, while reducing the use of fossil fuels. The panels reduce heating costs, and due to the fact that they generate a large amount of heat, they are also used in industrial facilities and in technological processes, such as e.g. drying of biomass.
- **VR Tier One** - a virtual reality system that helps people after stroke, heart attacks, cardiac operations and other serious illnesses, including rehabilitation, psychotherapy and cognitive training. Thanks to the method of "total immersion", that is, in a free translation of "total immersion" into the reality of Tier One, the system helps patients disconnect from the hospital environment, providing positive stimuli, increasing the motivation to actively participate in the convalescence process.

From among the five finalists of the local stage of Chivas Venture, on January 15, 2020, the winner will be selected who will represent Poland during the global ceremony of the competition, and earlier - in April - will compete with finalists from other countries in a global vote of internet users for a prize of 50,000. dollars.



Aether Biomedical

Chivas Venture

ecology'

Handerek Technologies

contest

MakeGrowLab

SolHotAir

startups



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