



Energy Supply to become more self-sufficient

Global Entrepreneurship Centre takes energy sector startups to the starting grid

Meerbusch (Germany), 21 October 2022 – *The Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) in Meerbusch, Germany has chosen eight innovative young companies that it will be helping to develop their business activities in the months ahead. Energy and “green chemicals” made from waste, hot water and electricity from combined solar heating and thermovoltaic collectors, network-independent cooling that uses solar power and ice, light smartly converted by means of nanotechnology and vertical wind power plants are use cases in which the startups are involved.*

“Macro-economics and our daily life are still greatly dependent on imports of fossil energy sources, mainly from autocratically ruled states,” says Friedrich Barth, founder and CEO of the Global Entrepreneurship Centre. “Buying and using oil, gas and coal is neither ecologically nor politically sustainable. We must find alternatives as fast as possible. That is why we support innovative enterprises that contribute toward energy resilience”.

Over 400 companies sifted through

In all, over 400 startups were screened for the call for solutions on the subject of energy resilience. An expert jury examined and assessed the entries for their CO₂ footprint and other sustainability parameters, their innovation potential, their level of technological maturity, their economic viability and their partner ecosystem. A multi-stage sustainability assessment then followed in the course of which the GEC team first chose the 18 semi-finalists and then the finalists for the GEC Scaling Factory (from TRL 6) and GEC Catalyst (TRL 4-5) startup programmes.

GEC Scaling Factory

With its GEC Scaling Factory instrument the Global Entrepreneurship Centre serves as a microinvestor. A startup that takes part in this support programme will receive up to 200,000 euros in in-kind services. Two ‘Energy-Call’ startups have qualified for an invitation to join the GEC Scaling Factory programme for 15 to 18 months. There they will receive highly customised support. Common requirements include advice on funding, patent law or contracts, scaling of development and process organisation, IT infrastructure and digitalisation,



arranging contacts with investors, access to laboratory space and production facilities, as well as assistance with market entry procedures or company settlement, and finding accommodation for employees. Invitations to take part in the GEC Scaling Factory programme will go to:

- **enVerde LLC** [<https://www.enverdellc.com>] of the US, which converts industrially released carbons into synthetic gases and heating and process heat. enVerde has previously successfully taken part in the GEC Catalyst programme;
- **Naked Energy** [<https://nakedenergy.com>] from the UK, which with its modular Virtu collectors enables solar power to be used efficiently to generate electricity and heat water simultaneously.

GEC Catalyst

Other startups with innovations in the energy sector will receive an invitation to take part in the ten-week lean launchpad curriculum of the GEC Catalyst programme. GEC Catalyst experts from Silicon Valley use the lean launchpad method, complemented by industry experts in subject-related mentoring and master classes. In terms of their level of technological maturity GEC Catalyst startups are at a slightly earlier stage than GEC Scaling Factory startups. As a rule they are at technology readiness level 4–5 and look forward to assistance with the further development of their product and growth strategies. Invitations to take part in the GEC Catalyst programme will go to two startups from Germany, one from the Netherlands and three from the United Kingdom:

- **Lambda Energy** [<https://www.lambda.energy>] from the UK, which by means of advanced biomaterials converts energy-rich light efficiently into less energy-rich light for use in, say, agriculture and for photovoltaic applications;
- **AdaptVerticalMills** [<https://www.adaptverticalmills.com>] of Germany, which develops modular vertical wind power plants for decentral energy generation;
- **Koolboks** [<https://www.koolboks.com>] from the UK, which makes it possible in locations remote from the electricity grid to cool foodstuffs continuously even in limited sunlight and at the same time provide a light source and store energy to charge smartphones;
- **Cumulus Energy Storage** [<http://www.cumulusenergystorage.com>] from the UK, which has developed stationary large-scale grid storage of electricity using cost-effective rechargeable copper-zinc batteries for



network operation;

- **Bavertis** [<https://bavertis.com>] of Germany, which offers a modular battery solution for battery-powered EVs (hardware and software). The company uses conventional battery cells that are integrated into modules with power electronic switches;
- **AquaBattery** [<https://aquabattery.nl>] from the Netherlands, which aims to enable global energy transition to a net zero grid by storing surplus renewable energy in table salt and water.

The most promising graduates of the GEC Catalyst Programme may also be invited to join the GEC Scaling Factory.

About Global Entrepreneurship Centre

Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) is a transformation hub for scaling sustainable technology innovation and entrepreneurship. It addresses the scaling challenges of promising sustechs – deep-tech start-ups with a clear sustainability and climate protection focus – from all over the world. The selection process includes a proprietary sustainability assessment, diligently carried out internally by the GEC. Launched in 2021, the GEC will initially support up to 20 startups per year in the sectors building & living, textiles, mobility & transport and agriculture & nutrition with access to venture capital, business development, advisory services, production and lab capacity. The GEC is funded by the Rhineland region's STARK initiative for structural transition and the Rhine County of Neuss. The Global Entrepreneurship Centre is based in Meerbusch near Duesseldorf, Germany.

For more information, please go to our website <https://www.gec-scaleup.com>

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