

PRESS RELEASE

300 delighted hackers, makers and designers from all over the world, the very latest technologies, a cool location, and a fantastic atmosphere

The first TECHFEST MUNICH is a big success

The winning teams: safety vests for cyclists, vehicle inspection with the HoloLens, and ticket checks using face recognition

Garching, 12.09.2016:

On Sunday evening, UnternehmerTUM's first TECHFEST MUNICH ended with the Techslam and an after-show party. Around 300 participants - techies, hackers, founders, biologists and designers - from countries including the USA, Italy, Sweden, Romania and Spain all spent the three days from September 9 to 11, 2016 experimenting with the very latest technologies and materials. Unlike the classic hackathon, the TECHFEST was not only about writing code – here, software and hardware products were developed, and initial prototypes were built in MakerSpace.

From all the projects submitted, the jury selected five winning teams: The first prize went to the adidas Safe Light Jacket – a safety vest with integrated LEDs for cyclists – with lights and turn signal function. The second prize was won by Holo Truck – using the HoloLens, which is connected to a vehicle, the truck driver can perform a systematic safety check.

The third prize went to FlixFace – FlixFace enables fast and data-protection-safe check-in for long-distance buses using face recognition.

The Special Prize of the City of Munich went to Awesome Disc – a Frisbee that lights up in rainbow colours and can write texts in the night sky. The Special Prize of the Technical University of Munich was won by the Personal Protein Printer which opens up new applications in personalized medicine.

The participants were especially delighted by MakerSpace – the 1,500-square-metre high-tech workshop of UnternehmerTUM – and the hard gadgets in the Hardware Library, from Arduinos to the HoloLens:

"We were provided with different tools and technologies from MakerSpace and it was the most amazing prototyping workshop I've ever seen. Also we had really good support by the mentors who assisted us very well. There were many things we haven't done before yet and it was pretty cool to twiddle with all those tools." - Raquel De Hora, a software developer from Spain.

Nzengon Desire, a founder from Belgium: "The team took very good care of us, the venue was really great and we had a lot of fun. We played with equipment we would probably just be dreaming of and above all we were intensely discussing real life problems. And the best: We really created something here."

For the partners, too, the first ever TechFest was a total success: Dr. Stefan Kampmann, CTO of Osram and partner of TECHFEST: "It was incredible what the teams here developed within just 72 hours. For us, Open Innovation means to network, and we go to wherever innovators meet up – one example being the TECHFEST".

"A cool location, a superb combination of thinkers and doers, and you could really sense the creative flow and the spirit of development in all of the teams", said Rainer Rehm, security architect at MAN.

"We had no idea what to expect here, and what impressed me most was the sheer energy and the commitment of the participants", said Garry Pairraudeau from AstraZeneca.

"Young people from all over the world worked on technical development for one weekend. UnternehmerTUM is a great platform for Munich – it brings developers, start-ups and established companies together", said Gabriele Böhmer from Munich Startup.

"We were overwhelmed by the quality of the ideas that emerged in just 72 hours, and by the great response from participants and partners. That's why we're already looking forward to the Techfest 2017", said Dr. Helmut Schönenberger, CEO of UnternehmerTUM.

The TECHFEST 2017 will take place from September 7-10.

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UnternehmerTUM

UnternehmerTUM, the Center for Innovation and Business Creation at Technische Universität München, was founded in 2002 by the entrepreneur Susanne Klatten, and has since provided support for international start-ups and established companies in the development of new products and services, launching successful businesses, market entry, and during the growth phase. With the help of intensive coaching and mentoring, the accelerator programme TechFounders prepares innovative high-tech start-ups over a period of 20 weeks for the first round of venture capital, initiating strategic collaborations with industry partners. MakerSpace, the high-tech workshop at UnternehmerTUM, covers an area of 1,500 square meters and offers a unique machine park for prototype construction and small-series production. The UnternehmerTUM fund offers capital for young technology companies with international market potential.

With more than 50 high-growth start-ups and over 1,000 participants in the qualification programmes every year, UnternehmerTUM is playing a leading role in Europe.

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