

250 Startups from 35 Countries Are in the Running for the CODE_n Awards

50 energy transition solutions will take center stage in Hall 16 at CeBIT

Hanover/Stuttgart, December 4, 2012 – The transition to sustainable energy will no doubt be challenging; a feat that will call for a combination of many different solutions – exactly the kinds of clever concepts and business models being developed by young companies all around the world. The CODE_n innovation initiative started by the GFT group will present the top 50 startups at the CeBIT trade show in March 2013. 250 young companies from 35 countries have applied for the CODE_n13 Contest in hopes of securing a coveted spot in Hall 16. What’s more, CODE_n will feature the Smart Grid Summit, organized by the industry association BITKOM.

From cloud-based “smart home” approaches to a community platform designed to network green entrepreneurs with investors, to the world’s first purely electrically powered full-scale helicopter, 250 young companies have registered their business concepts with the CODE_n13 Contest. The 50 best concepts will be announced on December 17, 2012. Participants will be in the running for CODE_n Awards in two categories: “Startup” and “Emerging Company.”

But the innovation initiative CODE_n is more than just a competition. “CODE_n will bring 50 unique talents together in one place over the span of five days, creating an unmistakable atmosphere of pioneering spirit and inspirational drive related to the important topic of our current energy transition,” explains GFT’s CEO, Ulrich Dietz. This makes CODE_n the most important marketplace at CeBIT for green issues. The artistically designed exhibition hall will create an ideal backdrop for the finalists to present their business models as unique interpretations of the contest concept “Smart Solutions for Global Challenges.” Through the contest, CODE_n will turn 4,000 sq m of space in Hall 16 into an exhibition area that breaks commonplace conventions to create a unique trade show environment.

An exclusive event program will compliment the exciting activities planned for the CODE_n innovations hall at CeBIT. This will include the Smart Grid Summit, which will be hosted in the CODE_n hall on March 8, 2013 by the high-tech association BITKOM. Leading figures from the worlds of politics and economics will discuss the significance of intelligent power networks for the success of the energy transition.

A further highlight will be the awards ceremony, where the €15,000 CODE_n prizes will be awarded on March 7, 2013. The winners of several special prizes will also be announced at this awards show. Dell will bestow an award of €10,000 to the best business application developed based on the Windows 8 platform. Also, three finalists from Germany will receive crowd funding services through Seedmatch, which could help them acquire up to €200,000 in venture capital.

About CODE_n:

CODE_n is an international initiative for digital pioneers, innovators and ground-breaking startups. Initiated in 2011 by GFT Technologies, the goal of this network is to support outstanding business talents and their exceptional business ideas, provide them with a platform for dialog, and therefore stimulate innovation in the field. CODE_n stands for "Code of the New," the DNA of innovation. The initiative is sponsored by Ernst & Young and Deutsche Messe.

In 2013, CODE_n will grant the CODE_n Award for the second time, this year under the motto "Smart Solutions for Global Challenges" with a focus on IT-based concepts for sustainable energy supply and usage. For further information visit: www.code-n.org.

About GFT:

As a strategic IT partner based in Stuttgart, Germany, the GFT Group helps companies optimise their business processes by providing intelligent IT systems and highly skilled specialists. Under the motto 'inspiring IT', GFT converts cutting-edge technological developments into sustainable business models.

GFT is one of the world's leading IT service suppliers for the finance sector. It enables financial institutes to quickly and securely utilise modern technologies in order to enhance their long-term competitive standing. GFT combines established technological experience with comprehensive industry expertise, in order to develop, implement and maintain customised IT solutions. With its international network of experts, GFT offers companies in all sectors the opportunity to manage the staffing of their technology projects flexibly.

For 25 years, GFT has stood for technological expertise, innovative strength and outstanding quality. Founded in 1987 by its current CEO, Ulrich Dietz, GFT achieved revenues of €272 million in 2011. The GFT Group is represented in seven countries by its 22 local facilities. A global team of over 1,300 employees and 1,300 external consultants implement complex IT projects across various countries. The GFT share is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (Prime Standard: WKN 580 060, GEX).

Contact:

GFT Innovations GmbH
Andrea Wlcek, Managing Director
Filderhauptstraße 142
70599 Stuttgart
Germany
T +49 711 62042-0
presse@gft.com