

50 green start-ups for the CeBIT

Finalists chosen for international CODE_n13 Contest

Stuttgart, December 18, 2012 – 50 young companies from around the world found a special early Christmas present in their mailboxes today. They are the finalists of the CODE_n13 Contest who will be presenting their ideas at the CeBIT 2013 trade show in Hanover, Germany. The companies will have their own 4,000-square-meter hall, specially designed by French artist Vincent Tavenne, to showcase their innovative energy transition solutions. The chosen 50 include startups from thirteen different nations. A total of 250 companies from 35 countries had submitted entries. The winners of the two CODE_n13 Awards, each worth €15,000 in cash, will be chosen by a top-rate international jury.

“The variety and quality of the entries was incredible,” says Ulrich Dietz, initiator of CODE_n and CEO of GFT Technologies AG. “Once again, we will be presenting 50 highly interesting, up-and-coming firms at CODE_n. Anyone interested in energy transition solutions and meeting international start-up pioneers simply has to check out Hall 16 of the CeBIT.” Frank Pörschmann, Head of CeBIT at Deutsche Messe AG, states: “We look forward to many exciting stands offering a unique experience for CeBIT visitors.”

The 50 finalists invited to Hanover in March 2013 include companies from Germany, the USA, Spain, the UK, Greece, the Netherlands, Brazil and Switzerland. Participants from the Ukraine, Austria, Denmark, Iceland and Algeria will also be presenting their promising business concepts.

The ideas range from a green cloud solution to a hybrid vehicle driven by pure pedal power and solar energy. There is also a solar kiosk for small companies in developing nations with no access to the power grid. Several alternative mobility solutions are among the winning entries – such as innovative car sharing concepts and an ultra-low-power, one-person electric vehicle. The “Internet of Things” will also be playing a major role at CODE_n. Several start-ups will be showing their “smart home” ideas for the intelligent management of heating, light and other devices. There will also be community-based solutions linking the possibilities of the Social Web with the sustainable use of energy.

“Energy transition offers tremendous opportunities for IT companies,” says Gerhard Müller, partner at Ernst & Young. “Intelligent IT solutions alone, however, are still no guarantee of business success. Companies also need a compelling and well conceived business plan which can turn their ideas into reality. Our finalists combine technology and business ideas – and thus have a great chance of firmly establishing their ideas on the market.”

“The pre-selection process has whetted my appetite and I’m really looking forward to meeting the people behind these creative ideas,” explains Ulrich Dietz, one of the jury members who will be choosing the winners of the CODE_n13 Awards in the categories “Startup” and “Emerging Company”. “It’s certainly going to be a close call,” says Dietz.

In addition to Dietz, the jury includes Antonella Battaglini (Renewables Grid Initiative), Julian von Blücher (Ecosummit), Murat Günak (mia electric), Carsten Knop (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), Jens-Uwe Sauer (Seedmatch) and Elizabeth Varley (TechHub). The winners will be

announced at a special Award Show at the CeBIT on March 7, 2013, as will the recipients of the special prizes – crowd funding services from Seedmatch for three German finalists and a prize from Dell for the best solution based on Windows 8.

As in the previous year, CODE_n will be held in Hall 16 of the CeBIT – this year with as much as 4,000 sq m of floor space. CODE_n once again succeeded in enlisting a renowned artist, Vincent Tavenne, to give the exhibition area its own distinctive design. Ulrich Dietz describes the idea as follows: “CODE_n aims to challenge conventional thinking and deliberately alter our perspectives. We feel we can achieve exactly that by combining art and technology in our hall. We want to create an inspiring environment in which creativity and business blend seamlessly.”

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).

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