



Press Release

Final Pitches at F-LANE: Start-ups that strengthen women in the technology sector fight for investments at re:publica and Arch Summit

- **Out of 180 applications, five start-ups from Germany, the USA, Pakistan, Great Britain and Uganda were selected for Europe's first Female Tech Accelerator from Vodafone Institute.**
- **Start-ups pitch for investments at the re:publica on 2 May 2018 and at the Arch Summit from 3-4 May 2018**
- **Pitch at the Arch Summit is endowed with an investment sum of 50,000 euro**

Berlin, April 2018: The five early stage companies selected by the Vodafone Institute for F-LANE – Europe's first Tech Accelerator that strengthens women in the technology sector – will pitch for investors' money at the re:publica in Berlin on May 2nd 2018 at 1.30 p.m. and at the Arch Summit in Luxembourg on May 3 and 4. They are currently participating in a seven-week accelerator programme in Berlin, that offers advice for female entrepreneurs, training, access to networks and financial assistance. The aim of the programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Impact Hub Berlin and the Social Entrepreneurship Academy, is to increase women's participation in technological development and to use technology to improve the situation of girls and women globally.

The highlight of the F-LANE programme is going to be the pitch of the five finalists in front of investors and decision makers from business, media and politics at the re:publica in Berlin and the international Arch Summit in Luxembourg. The majority of the start-ups in the past F-LANE rounds have received investments at previous pitch events following the programme – in some cases of up to 4.5 million euro.

"Female founders and tech start-ups with a female empowerment focus still have to deal with more challenges in order to receive investments", says Alice Deißner, Director of the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communication. "The common cliché that there are no women with tech skills is outdated. In order to strengthen the existing potential, the approach of media, politics and investors must change - this is exactly where F-LANE comes in".

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In addition to the pitch at re:publica on 2 May 2018, the five ventures of the F-LANE Accelerator will fight for investments of 50,000 Euros at the Arch Summit hosted by Tomorrow Street in Luxembourg on the 3 and 4 May 2018. The aim of the summit, which is targeted at companies and start-ups, is to forge cooperations and sustainable partnerships as well as to drive innovation. More than 1000 decision-makers and specialists from Vodafone and its suppliers are expected to attend the summit. The event gives participants the opportunity to inspire innovation among themselves and to be inspired by decision makers in the digital economy – including e.g. Jeremy White, Executive Editor Wired Magazine and Max Amordeluso, EU Lead Evangelist Amazon Alexa. The Arch Summit focuses on the pitch competitions with total prize money of 250,000 Euros.

These five ventures of the current F-LANE cohort are:

Mama Bird (Washington D.C., USA)

Mamabird enables women and children in remote African villages to receive medical supplies by drone transportation.

FinMarie (Berlin, Germany)

FinMarie is the first online investment platform in Germany that was created by women for women, taking into account the personal goals and individual needs of women and developing tailor-made investment portfolios for them.

BreastIT (Kampala, Uganda)

Breast IT enables the diagnosis of breast cancer using a glove that delivers immediate results using piezoelectric crystals on the palm of the hand. This greatly facilitates the screening of breast cancer, especially in structurally weak regions.

Doctory (Islamabad, Pakistan)

Doctory is developing a search engine through which patients can access reliable health information, specialist staff information and assessments of health services with the help of machine learning.

Free D (London, UK)

Free_D provides girls and women in danger of long-term professional training with an education as a craft jewelry maker by means of a 3-D printing training and focusses on digital skills in general.

F-LANE at a glance

180 start-ups from 57 countries applied for a place in the current cohort of the F-LANE accelerator. F-LANE is looking worldwide for innovative tech start-ups with a

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focus on women who solve a social problem entrepreneurially or startups that empower women through technology. The business ideas should have a broad impact and use technology to improve the situation of girls and women. In addition, external experts support the start-ups through consulting, coaching and mentoring, and the founding teams gain access to an international network of investors. Members of the F-LANE advisory board include Dupsy Abiola (Head of Innovation International Airlines Group, Lisa Witter (Co-Founder and CEO of apolitical), Hedda Pahlson-Moller (Business Angel and Venture Capitalist) and Andy Goldstein (Co-Founder of LMU Entrepreneurship Center).

Further information concerning the programme can be found at www.f-lane.com.

Social Media: facebook.com/flaneaccelerator, http://twitter/flane_vfi

About the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications

The institute is Vodafone's European think-tank. We analyze the potential of digital technologies and their responsible use for innovation, growth and sustainable social impact. With the help of studies and events, we offer a platform for dialogue between thought leaders from science, business and politics. Our goal is to provide better access to technology for all sections of society. That is why we develop and support projects to strengthen women in the digital economy. The Vodafone Institute sees itself as an interdisciplinary platform and benefits from the expertise of its international advisory board.

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