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## Media Release

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### **Scott Sports and NanoLockin win the Fribourg Innovation Award – the International “Agri & Co Challenge” Call for Projects presents its 16 Winners**

*On Wednesday evening, the Canton of Fribourg honored its most innovative companies. Headquartered in Givisiez, Scott Sports won the Business Award, while the Start-up Award, in accordance with the results of a public vote, was given to the start-up company NanoLockin based in Fribourg. In addition, the Cleantech Award was received by the company Cortexia from Châtel-St-Denis. At this same event, the winners of the Agri & Co Challenge were revealed to the public for the first time. Further to a public vote, the company Bee Vectoring Technology from Canada was chosen from among the 16 winners as the recipient of the COREB prize. The Awards Ceremony took place at Forum Fribourg in the presence of over 500 guests.*

Every two years, the Fribourg Innovation Award is given to the most innovative enterprise and the most innovative start-up. This year, the Cantonal authorities are simultaneously seizing this opportunity to announce the winners of the Agri & Co Challenge.

#### **Scott Sports: the lightest Wheel for Mountain bikes**

Scott Sports was presented with the CHF 10,000 Business Award by Denis Galley, Member of the Executive Board of the Fribourg Cantonal Bank, for its development of an innovative, full carbon wheelset. This new type of carbon-made wheel comes out of one composite mold, spokes included. Weighing but a mere 1250 grams per pair, the Syncros Silverton SL wheelset is the lightest 29-inch wheelset for mountain bikes. In addition, the wheels are characterized by a rigidity and initial acceleration values never before attained.

In selecting Scott Sports, the panel of judges chose to acclaim the company for its innovational drive and the brand strategy pursued. Three years ago, Scott Sports set out with the objective to revolutionize the wheel. Thanks to its experience in the domain of composite materials – for over 20 years the company has been marketing Scott-Bikes with carbon frames – the company was able to present this year its innovative wheelset to the public. It will be available for purchase in early 2019 under the name of Syncros Silverton SL for Mountain bikes. Scott Sports took over the long-established brand “Syncros” in 2012 with the goal of turning it into an important actor on the market for bike components and accessories.

Scott Sports develops, produces, and markets high quality sports equipment in the domains of biking, winter sports, motor sports, and running. Approximately 80% of its turnover comes from the sector of bikes. At its Headquarters in Givisiez (Canton of Fribourg), the company employs some 280 persons; worldwide, the number of employees is about 1000.

## The Judges and the Public vote for NanoLockin as the Winner of the Start-up Award

The winner of the Start-up Award is the company NanoLockin from Fribourg which came in with 38% of all votes cast. The victorious start-up company was chosen by the panel of judges as well as by a public vote. The public was able to cast its vote ever since the finalists had been announced four weeks ago. In addition, the persons present at the Awards Ceremony were once again given the possibility of voting by SMS text messaging.

NanoLockin has developed a new method to detect nanoparticles. Based on active thermal imaging, it measures the most minute differences in temperature. When nanoparticles absorb light, they create heat that, thanks to active thermal imaging, can be rapidly and efficiently measured and quantified. This innovative method is easy to use, the products being examined are not damaged, and the costs of an analysis are reduced tenfold in comparison with the other techniques employed to date.

The CHF 30,000 Start-up Award was presented by Fribourg Minister of Economic Affairs Olivier Curty, President of the Fribourg Innovation Award's panel of judges. Start-up companies Cortexia in Châtel-St-Denis and Texum in Fribourg came in second and third, respectively.

## Cortexia wins the Cleantech Award

The CHF 6,000 Cleantech Award was won by the company Cortexia from Châtel-St-Denis. Cortexia has developed a solution enabling cities to improve their cleanliness, while reducing costs and preserving the environment. Cortexia's approach measures urban littering in an objective manner by using intelligent cameras mounted on city vehicles. Neural network algorithms identify and quantify the amount of littering, placing it into different categories. The data thus collected is transmitted in real time in the form of a detailed map of the dirty areas. In this way, resources can be planned and allocated to ensure that the right cleaning means are used at the right time and at the right location.

The Cleantech Award was handed over to the winner by Chantal Robin, Director of the Fribourg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), and a member of the panel of judges. The Cleantech Award was endowed by contributions from the FCCI, the Cantonal Service of Energy, and the Fribourg Development Agency.

## Agri & Co Challenge with 16 Winners and a Public Favorite

The Canton of Fribourg launched the Agri & Co Challenge back in January of this year. This international call for projects with two distinct programs, *Relocation* and *Remote Collaboration*, is targeted at innovative companies active in the food, agriculture, and biomass industries. Out of the 154 candidates from a total of 53 countries, the judging panel selected 16 winners who were presented for the first time at the Awards Ceremony. Herewith the list of winning companies:

### Relocation Program

**AgroSustain, Switzerland:** "A novel organic approach to extend storage of vegetables and fruits infected with broadly spread fungal pathogens" [www.agrosustain.ch](http://www.agrosustain.ch)

**Augmenta, Greece:** "State of the art deep learning device helping farmers optimizing their yields in real time" [www.augmenta.ag](http://www.augmenta.ag)

**Bee Vectoring Technology, Canada:** "A revolutionary patented technology that uses commercial bees to deliver targeted crop controls through the natural process of pollination" [www.beevt.com](http://www.beevt.com)

**Edapro, Switzerland:** “Development of crop-specific microorganisms to naturally promote soil fertility and strengthens the plants” [www.edapro.ch](http://www.edapro.ch)

**EDB Poliois Vegetais, Brazil:** “Production of vegetable polyols – an innovative renewable and bio-based raw material for various applications such as seed coating” [www.polioisvegetais.com.br](http://www.polioisvegetais.com.br)

**Golden Chlorella, Switzerland:** “Innovative food based on Golden Chlorella™, a nutrient-dense micro-algae which is also one of the most sustainable source of protein” [www.alver.ch](http://www.alver.ch)

**iDUS Controls, Canada:** “A leading-edge IoT and cloud hosted solution for smart agriculture” [www.iduscontrols.com](http://www.iduscontrols.com)

**Smart Yields, USA:** “Combining the power of hardware sensors and software to help small scale farmers gaining unique and useful insights about their farm” [www.smartyields.com](http://www.smartyields.com)

**Solvea, Romania:** “A sustainable insect-based animal feed for aquaculture, agriculture and pet food industry”

**Thinkmilk, Brazil:** “An innovative milking process based on low-cost electronic sensors helping dairy farmers monitor and improve the health of their herd and milk quality” [www.thinkmilk.ch](http://www.thinkmilk.ch)

#### Remote Collaboration Program

**AeroFarms, USA:** “Taking vertical farming to a new level of precision and productivity with minimal environmental impact through patented and award winning aeroponic technology” <https://aerofarms.com>

**Carbon Loop Technologies, Germany:** “The only industrial process using open fire pyrolysis to capture carbon as premium quality Biochar”

**EIO Diagnostics, Canada:** “A fully automatable tool combining machine learning and multispectral sensors for early detection of mastitis in livestock” [www.eiodiagnostics.com](http://www.eiodiagnostics.com)

**Polynatural, Chile:** “A natural and organic edible coating to extend shelf life of fresh fruits by reducing microbial contamination and dehydration” [www.polynatural.cl](http://www.polynatural.cl)

**Saathi Eco Innovations, India:** “The first 100% biodegradable & compostable sanitary pad made from banana fiber, one of the most absorbent natural fibers & abundant in India” [www.saathipads.com](http://www.saathipads.com)

**SwissDeCode, Switzerland:** “The first portable and completely self-administered on-site DNA detection kit able to confirm product integrity in less than 30 minutes” [www.swissdecode.com](http://www.swissdecode.com)

The winners of the Agri & Co Challenge received their awards from the hands of Paola Ghillani, President of the panel of judges, and Olivier Piccard, Vice-President of COREB. The CHF 5,000 COREB Award, endowed by the COREB (la Broye Regional Association), was won in accordance with the results of a public vote, by the company Bee Vectoring Technology from Canada.

The 16 companies are here this week visiting the Canton of Fribourg. Next spring, the 10 project winners of the *Relocation Program* will set up operations at the *Agri & Co Innovation Center* in Saint-Aubin.

**Information: Judges for Fribourg Innovation Award**

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**Olivier Curty**, President of Judging Panel, Fribourg State Councillor, Minister of Economic Affairs, T. +41 26 305 24 02  
**Jean-Luc Mossier**, Vice-President of Judging Panel, Managing Director of the Fribourg Development Agency, T. +41 26 304 14 00  
**Christoph Aebischer**, Head of Communication, Fribourg Development Agency, M. +41 79 751 83 56

**Information: Winning Round Finalists Fribourg Innovation Award 2018/2019**

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**Medion Grifols Diagnostics Ltd:** Peter Schwind, Chairman of the Board of Directors, T +41 26 492 86 96  
**Scott Sports Ltd:** Pascal Ducrot, Vice President, T +41 26 460 16 25  
**Zbinden Posieux Ltd:** Philippe Zbinden, Commercial Director and Benoît Zbinden, Technical Director, T +41 26 411 99 33

**Cortexia Ltd:** Andreas von Känel, CEO, M +41 79 508 65 78  
**NanoLockin LLC:** Christoph Geers, Managing Director, M +41 78 610 79 84  
**Texum LLC:** David Ducrest, Managing Director, T +41 26 422 24 31

**Information: Agri & Co Challenge**

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**Paola Ghillani**, President of the Agri & Co Challenge Judging Panel; Founder and President of Paola Ghillani & Friends, T +41 44 389 84 46  
**Nadine Lacroix Oggier**, Person in charge of the Agri & Co Challenge, Manager of the Food & Nutrition Cluster, T +41 26 429 67 74  
**Pascal Toffel**, Judging Panel member, Director of the Fribourg Cantonal Agricultural Institute – Grangeneuve, M +41 79 600 06 20

**Fribourg Innovation Award and Agri & Co Challenge**

The Fribourg Innovation Award is organized by the Fribourg Development Agency (FDA) and the Fribourg Cantonal Bank (FCB). The major Cantonal media – La Liberté, Freiburger Nachrichten, La Télé, Radio Fribourg/Freiburg and La Gruyère – are partners to the Fribourg Innovation Award.

The Fribourg Innovation Award has been held since 1991. It is targeted at Fribourg enterprises and is awarded every two years.

In addition, within the frame of this year's Award Ceremony, the winners of the Agri & Co Challenge were publicly acclaimed. The 13 members of the jury of the Agri & Co Challenge are drawn from the worlds of research, academia and industry, including Nestlé, Cremo, Fenaco and Micarna. All four of these prestigious companies also partner the Agri & Co Challenge initiative.

All information can be found at: [www.innovationfr.ch](http://www.innovationfr.ch) and [www.agricochallenge.org](http://www.agricochallenge.org)