

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Start-Ups / Growth Companies / Venture Capital

HighTech Startbahn and SEMI seek Europe's 60 best Start-ups and High-Growth Companies for Strategic Partnering

- *Europe-wide 'Call for Projects' has begun: HighTech Startbahn and SEMI offer unique presentation platform to start-ups and high-growth companies in the European high-tech branch*
- *HighTech Startbahn: The 'Innovation Workshop Capital' becomes 'HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS'*
- *SEMI: SEMICON Europe expands INNOVATION VILLAGE together with new partner HIGHTECH STARTBAHN and significantly extends the program to big event in Oct. 2015.*

(Dresden, Brussels, April 7, 2015) SEMI, the worldwide association for suppliers in the chip industry is expanding its program INNOVATION VILLAGE at SEMICON Europe 2015 together with its German partner, the incubator network HighTech Startbahn. Teaming up, the two innovators are seeking Europe's 60 best start-ups and high-growth companies to give them the opportunity to connect with strategic partners and investors.

By doing this, HighTech Startbahn changes its established investor-matchmaking forum 'HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS' into an international event.

Banded together, HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS and INNOVATION VILLAGE will be Europe's largest innovation platform for high-tech start-ups and high-growth companies that are seeking international investors. The event offers European start-ups the opportunity to present their business model to investors and industry partners.

HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS focuses on six key technology fields: micro-and nanotechnology, information and communications technology, environmental and energy technology, the automotive industry, material science, machinery and plant engineering, as well as medical technology and life science.

"Our global INNOVATION VILLAGE was very well received by the European industry partners last year in France," Heinz Kundert, president of SEMI Europe says. "The HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS are enriching SEMICON Europe and the European high-tech industry. We are getting closer to realizing our goal of supporting new technology-based products to reach the industry, and contributing to more investment for production in Europe."

HighTech Startbahn and SEMI begin Europe-Wide Call for Projects

SEMI and HighTech Startbahn have begun their collaboration with a call for projects. Beginning Mar. 23, 2015, high-tech start-ups and high-tech growth companies seeking venture capital are invited to apply for HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2015.

“Europe needs increased and more active venture capital so that technology-based, innovative start-ups can become successful and international enterprises,” Bettina Voßberg, Managing Director of HighTech Startbahn Network says. “By presenting the best ventures with our partner SEMI, we are aiming to make Europe’s enormous innovation potential visible on the international investors scene in 2015.”

SEMI expands the European program INNOVATION VILLAGE

On Oct. 5 and 6, 2015 the 60 best high-tech enterprises will have the opportunity to present their work with two short presentations (pitches) to international investors in Dresden. Afterwards, and through Oct. 8, the new technology enterprises can showcase their products and services at INNOVATION VILLAGE to an estimated 6,000 visitors and 400 exhibitors at SEMICON Europe. Along with a booth at the exposition, the start-ups will have the opportunity to present their business models in short presentations. In addition, experts and founders will discuss technology trends and their potential for new business models.

SEMICON Europe 2015 to feature New Topics and Formats

SEMICON Europe is the largest annual branch event for technologies and solutions for microelectronics production which includes semiconductors, MEMS, printed and organic electronics, as well as photovoltaic, high-performance electronics and other new and similar electronics markets. The event is not only the leading European exhibition for the semiconductor branch, but also an indicator of the newest technology trends and developments in the industry. Six-thousand visitors from all over the world are expected to attend the three-day event.

HighTech Startbahn internationalizes established Investors’ Congress

HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS is an extension of HighTech Startbahn’s investors’ congress ‘Innovationswerkstatt Kapital’. While until now the event mainly selected high-tech start-ups from research-intensive regions in Eastern Germany, the organizers are now extending the event to all of Europe.

“Europe has a lot of regions with strong technology branches, high levels of innovation and a dynamic start-up scene,” Thomas Schulz, manager at HighTech Startbahn Network says. “What has been lacking is a joint platform with qualified access to funding.”

In two days, selected innovative high-growth companies and start-ups from the high-tech field will present their enterprises to a national and international investor audience.

The organizers are committed to continuing this proven program.

Two Event Formats:

HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS – Oct. 5 and 6, 2015

HIGHTECH VENTURE DAYS is the Europe-wide extension of the investors’ congress ‘Innovationswerkstatt Kapital’ 2013 and 2014, organized by HighTech Startbahn. In 2015, 40 selected high-tech start-ups and growth companies from the six key technology fields will present their companies to more than 60 national and international investors including business angels, venture capitalists, corporate VCs, banks, and the ‘investing middle class’ with 10-minute pitches and a subsequent Q/A.

INNOVATION VILLAGE: On Oct. 6, 2015 organizers offer the opportunity for 20 selected high-tech start-ups and high-growth companies to present their companies in 5-minute pitches to investors, exhibitors and the exhibition audience. The pitches are followed by short Q/As.

Application deadline for the two events is May 31, 2015. All necessary documents and further information can be found at:

www.hightech-venture-days.com and www.semicon.europa.org/Segments/InnovationVillage.

The Organizers:

About SEMI

[SEMI](#) is the global industry association serving the manufacturing supply chain for the micro- and nano-electronics industries. The industries, companies, and people SEMI represents are the architects of the electronics revolution. SEMI members are responsible for the innovations and technologies that enable smarter, faster, more powerful, and more affordable electronic products and devices that bring the power of the digital age to more people every day. Since 1970 SEMI has helped its members to successfully grow profitably, to open new markets and to master the changing challenges of the branch. SEMI maintains offices in Beijing, Bengaluru, Brussels, Grenoble, Hsinchu, Moscow, San José, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C.

About HighTech Startbahn

[HighTech Startbahn](#) supports enterprises in the high-tech branch during the difficult post-formation phase by actively providing and arranging contacts to mentors, investors, industry partners and service providers. Its focus is to offer high-tech companies the opportunities to exchange experience and foster a lively start-up community.

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