

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWTH IN OPEN INNOVATION COMPETITION IS INSPIRING INNOVATION IN STARTUPS

City of Glasgow College hosted the final of the UK's latest IPHatch® open innovation competition, with a pitch day at the college's Riverside Campus on Friday 14 June 2024.

Since 2017, IPHatch® has been empowering start-ups in Asia with deep-tech seeds, and strengthening their credibility through technology acquisitions, licensing and collaboration with major multi-national companies (MNCs).

The competition, the first of its kind in the UK, is now in its second round and was hosted by the College, in association with the Scottish Institute of Innovation & Knowledge Exchange (Scottish IKE), Piece Future Ltd, and Scottish Enterprise.

The programme, comprising 4 stages, launched in January 2024, and delivered a series of thematic seminars on topics like overseas market expansion, sustainable impact and IP education, workshops and IPHatchathon®.

18 start-ups from across Scotland, the UK and even the EU, Middle East and Africa took part, with the finalists pitching their business ideas to a judging panel of IP Owners, Investors and Strategic Partners including Jari Vaario and Francisco Gomez from Nokia Technologies, Norikazu Ikeda from NEC Corporation, Yoshinori Nakagawa from Panasonic IP Management Co., Ltd. and Elizabeth Pirrie, from AccelerateHER and Investing Women Angels.

Roy Gardner, Vice Principal at City of Glasgow College, said:

"It is testament to the hard work of all involved, to bring this truly inspirational event back to Glasgow and to the City of Glasgow College. As a civic anchor institution, the College also embraces the symbiotic relationship it has with business & industry, locally, nationally and internationally.

IPHatch®UK continues to attract the brightest and best start-ups and MNC's and we hope to see this continue year after year".

Stuart McDowall, Head of Innovation and STEM, and IPHatch®UK lead at City of Glasgow College, added:

“I’m delighted that the college welcomed back IPHatch®UK in 2024. We’ve seen a significant increase in applications this year and more startups pitched at our final.

At City of Glasgow College, we continue to strive to be a valued partner of the city region, supporting the national economy, and the international learning community. IPHatch®UK continues to bring a unique approach to engaging both start-ups and MNC’s and is driving our ambitions in innovation and entrepreneurship, providing the catalyst for a new startup hub Incub8, for our finalists.”

Jason Loh, CEO of Piece Future, said:

“We are delighted to see the enthusiasm demonstrated by all the start-ups participating in IPHatch®UK 2024. The quality of ideas presented this year has been outstanding. IPHatch remains dedicated to foster deep-tech innovations and equipping start-ups with innovative patents, resources and networks essential to succeed in the global market.”

Iain Hay, Account Manager at Scottish Enterprise added:

“It is great to see the level of interest generated throughout the IPHatch competition and I’m delighted to have had the opportunity to work with our entrepreneurial ecosystem partners to support this fantastic initiative that essentially hatches the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Scottish Enterprise is committed to supporting the development of the high-growth industries of the future and competitions like this provide support to innovative, high growth potential start-ups and I look forward to continuing to work with IPHatch to nurture new businesses in Scotland”.

Jari Vaario, Head of Asia Patent Transactions & External Alliances at Nokia Technologies concluded:

“Nokia is a strong believer in the power of open innovation. We’re pleased to participate in IPHatch®UK and to give start-ups the opportunity to access and build upon Nokia’s industry leading patent portfolio.”

The finalists now await the results of who will be crowned the winner of IPHatch®UK 2024, with the winner securing ownership of readily available core technologies and up to £100,000 in prize money.

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