

Media Release

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A consortium of Zurich SMEs wins the 1st CSEM Digital Journey

Using digitalization to optimize the benefits of renewable energies

Neuchâtel, 7 November 2018 – The companies Soleco, Vela Solaris and Geminise have won the 1st CSEM Digital Journey, which was awarded at the annual Business Day of the Swiss R&D center. CSEM will make its digital expertise available to the winners to help them to develop their platform, which is designed to optimize the management of renewable energies in buildings.

The goal: to develop a low-cost digital interface to optimize the production and consumption of renewable energies in buildings. This innovation project convinced the jury of the first CSEM Digital Journey, and therefore succeeded in meeting this challenge aimed at Swiss industrial SMEs. It was submitted by a consortium of Zurich-based companies [Soleco](#), [Vela Solaris](#) et [Geminise](#) which will benefit from CSEM's expertise, worth CHF 100,000 in developing their project.

Combining commercial perspectives and rapid development

The commercial and social aspects of this idea, combined with its rapid feasibility, were decisive factors in the choice of the jury, which had to choose from seven selected projects. The other finalists were [Cleanfizz](#) (GE), [Eyeware](#) (VS), [Microsens](#) (VD) and [Ventura](#) (NE), from French-speaking Switzerland, and the Zurich-based [Dicronis](#) et [Swissphone](#).

“All the projects reflected an excellent balance between a promising solution to a market need and the use of CSEM's digital expertise,” commented Raphaël Rollier, a jury member and responsible for digitalization at Swisscom, citing the example of sophisticated algorithmic development for preventive maintenance applications.

“We are delighted that the project that best matched the established criteria was submitted jointly by two SMEs and a start-up,” adds Georges Kotrotsios, a member of CSEM management and president of the jury. “This formula enables us to leverage the potential for cooperation between these two categories of company.”

New competition scheduled for 2019

A new competition is already scheduled for 2019, and the Director of Digital Switzerland, Nicolas Bürer, welcomes this development. As a member of the jury, he considers this challenge to be “unique and essential, as it offers an opportunity to ambitious and visionary SMEs to benefit from CSEM's cutting-edge technologies.”

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About CSEM

CSEM—technologies that make the difference

CSEM, founded in 1984, is a Swiss research and development center (public-private partnership) specializing in microtechnology, nanotechnology, microelectronics, system engineering, photovoltaics and communications technologies. Around 450 highly qualified specialists from various scientific and technical disciplines work for CSEM in Neuchâtel, Zurich, Muttenz, Alpnach, and Landquart.

Further information is available at www.csem.ch



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The finalists:

- [Cleanfizz](#) (GE): manufacturer of self-cleaning solar panels
- [Dicronis](#) (ZH): solution for monitoring of lymphatic system
- [Eyeware](#) (VS): Software that allows cars and computers to follow the eye gaze.
- [Microsens](#) (VD): company specializing in intelligent sensors
- [Soleco/Velasolaris/Geminise](#) (ZH): intelligent systems for energy saving
- [Swissphone](#) (ZH): alarm systems
- [Ventura](#) (NE): company active in the machine-tool area

The jury:

- President: Georges Kotrotsios, CSEM management and responsible for Marketing & Business Development
- Silvio Bonaccio, EPFZ, responsible for technology transfer
- Nicolas Bürer, director of Digital Switzerland
- Marc Gruber, EPFL, vice-president for innovation
- Raphaël Rollier, Swisscom, responsible for innovation and digital transformation
- Robert Rudolph, Swissmem, member of Swissmem management and Division Head for innovation and digitalization
- Christian Wasserfallen, national counsellor

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