

Fresh Ideas create Scotland's next generation of entrepreneurs

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A system for sports coaches to monitor their teams, a platform to connect global conservation projects, and a new system to aid importers and exporters, were among the ideas presented at a showcase of Scotland's top entrepreneurial talent last night.

Aspiring entrepreneurs attended the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) Awards Dinner at the Corinthian in Glasgow city centre, which recognised the winners of SIE's annual Fresh Ideas competition.

Fresh Ideas, which celebrates Scotland's young enterprise talent, was hosted by Scottish Institute for Enterprise, an organisation funded by the Scottish Government to inspire entrepreneurial ventures in students and to build on enterprise skills for their working lives.

A total of £6,000 of funding went to the winners as prize money on the night, along with the support and advice provided by SIE, encouraging the development of each Fresh Idea.

Sydney Chasin, who won an award for creating healthy snack alternatives to popcorn, said: "SIE's Fresh Ideas competition has given me invaluable skills and ideas I can now use to turn my snack food company into a reality. The experience has given me the confidence in the concept and I firmly believe it is something we can introduce to the market in the near future."

Fresh Ideas aims to help individuals develop revolutionary idea at an early stage into viable new business models.

Fiona Godsman, chief executive of Scottish Institute for Enterprise, said: "We'd like to congratulate all the winners tonight, and everyone who entered the competition.

"Fresh Ideas gives us the chance to celebrate the creative and enterprising talent of young entrepreneurs in Scotland.

"Enterprise is necessary when it comes to growing the economy and improving society. It is important to encourage and foster entrepreneurship in our young people to equip them with the skills to go on to become great business people, either working within larger organisations or leading their own teams."

In addition to the awards ceremony, guests heard from one of Glasgow's former SIE competition winners Susanne Mitschke, CEO & Co-founder of MindMate, a leading platform for people living with Alzheimer's and dementia to interact and engage in different ways to stimulate brain activity.

Susanne Mitschke said: "It's great to be here and support future generations of entrepreneurs and I'm sure we will soon begin to see some of these ideas blossom into successful businesses.

"Winning with SIE gave my team the perfect platform to launch our own business. The opportunities and the help provided by the organisation was extremely supportive, particularly as we developed our initial business concept into something tangible."

Further awards were presented to young entrepreneurs in specific categories of economic importance to the Scottish Government, such as Health & Wellbeing, Creative Industries, Food & Drink and the Environment.

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Press Enquiries:

Laura Connell The BIG Partnership
laura.connell@bigpartnership.co.uk

0141 333 9585 / 07397661333

Notes to editors:

About SIE: The Scottish Institute for Enterprise is the national organisation for the promotion and support of enterprise and entrepreneurship in Scotland's students. SIE works with Universities and Colleges to champion enterprise education and help their students start new innovative businesses. Since 2000, SIE has provided free one-to-one advice, enterprise workshops and business competitions supported by a national team of student interns and business advisors. SIE's services are open to all students and graduates in Scotland, up to two years after graduation. SIE is supported by the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Enterprise and is part of the Scotland CAN DO framework. For more information about SIE, go to: www.sie.ac.uk

The SIE Awards Dinner was sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland and Marks & Clerk.

About the Fresh Ideas competition:

Fresh Ideas is SIE's main enterprise competition and is intended to recognise and support early stage ideas. The annual competition runs monthly from October to January with the overall winners announced at the SIE Awards Dinner. In 2016-17, the competition saw an impressive 25% increase in entries, reaching nearly 400. This year also saw the introduction of special awards recognising Scottish Government priority areas.

Notes to editors

All Fresh Ideas winners:

Catherine Truel

Glasgow Caledonian University

Alegant – Supporting global trade by providing an online interactive platform connecting importers and exporters with vetted global trade and customs compliance experts worldwide.

Sydney Chasin

Edinburgh Napier University graduate

A healthy snack food company specialising in a healthy, eco-friendly, alternative to popcorn.

Roy Hotrabhvanon

University of Edinburgh graduate

A new wearable monitoring system to help sports coaches monitor the status of their teams in real time.

Zachary Baynham-Herd

University of Edinburgh

The world's first peer-peer conservation platform connecting those willing to donate to conservation, with those working specifically on individual conservation projects

Sam Rogers

University of Strathclyde graduate

Portable power products for adventurers to help support renewable energy solutions developing counties

Special Awards:

Health & Wellbeing

Lisa Main

Robert Gordon University

A virtual town video game for schoolchildren to help promote healthy living

Creative Industries

Lorn Jean Cowie

University of Edinburgh

A high-end fashion brand focused around innovation

Food & Drink

Allistair Taylor (Team)

Robert Gordon University

A locally sourced and sustainable Scottish mead, utilising flavours and ingredients native to Scotland.

Environment

Muhamad Adib Rosli

Heriot-Watt

A new wind turbine technology which would allow turbines to capture and generate more energy

Interns of the Year (TBC)

- **Fraser Payne**
Edinburgh Napier University
- **Stephanie Warne**
University of Strathclyde
- **David Sedlak**
University of Aberdeen
- **Kamil Polakowski**
City of Glasgow College