Auterion is white-hot: drone tech start-up wins Digital Economy Award

Winners also included Amnesty International Switzerland, Ex Libris, Modum.io, SBB and Sonova.

Over 500 guests from the digital, research, business and policy sectors attended the Digital Economy Award Night to celebrate this year's crowing digital achievements. The awards ceremony was hosted for the first time in conjunction with a gala dinner at the Hallenstadion in Zurich. The highlight of the evening was drone tech start-up Auterion, winner in the category of Next Global Hot Thing.

Zurich, 21 November 2018 — Thirty highly promising start-ups were nominated; just three made it to the final round. This evening, over 500 guests were present at the Hallenstadion in Zurich, where they received news of the winner in the category of Next Global Hot Thing – Auterion. The drone tech start-up develops complete operating systems and has been very successful in establishing them as global standards for enterprise drones. Over a million drones have already been put into operation using Auterion technology. Pascal Kaufmann, jury president and founder of the AI high-flyer Starmind, paid tribute to the winner: 'The combination of top Swiss know-how and entrepreneurship, the absolutely scalable open source model and the international team of top talents from all over the world ideally position Auterion to become The Next Global Hot Thing.'

High-calibre projects and companies were also among the candidates in the other categories, with over 70 submissions for Digital Innovation of the Year, Digital Transformation and Highest Digital Quality. Following a restructuring of the jury process with new jury members, this year's contenders had to undergo more rigorous evaluation and judging than in the past.

And here are the winners

Digital Innovation of the Year: Modum.io with Modsense.
Jury president Lukas Bär: 'The innovation combines a single hardware and software solution, as well as merging the flow of information and value for the transport of critical goods. The current focus is on "last-mile" transport of medical products, such as to pharmacies, hospitals or doctors.'

Digital transformation SME: Ex Libris
Jury president Samy Liechti: 'Digitalization goes through the entire company from procurement to the point of sale. It becomes a daily experience for every employee and customer. Ex Libris started the journey years ago and continued to accelerate last year. '

Digital Transformation NPO & Government: Amnesty International Switzerland
Jury president Marc Uricher: 'The will to change is palpable at all levels and – most importantly – is something that the management supports and demonstrates itself. Donors and sponsors generally have the sense that they play a key role.'

Digital Transformation Large Enterprises: Sonova
Jury president Bramwell Kaltenrieder: 'In recent years, this long-standing hearing aid manufacturer, which markets its products through an international network of sales partners, has transformed into an integrated ecosystem operator. Through systematic analysis of the customer's requirements and "journeys", the company was able to reposition its products and, most importantly, its services – digitalised from end to end.'

Highest Digital Quality: SBB with its NOVA platform
Jury president Marcus Dauck: 'The main focus is to offer an optimised experience that allows the customer to navigate familiar places or get from A to B very easily with the help of partners. The NOVA platform won in the category of Highest Digital Quality, most notably because it became obvious how quality standards were kept extraordinarily high in a digital agile environment throughout the entire project as well as during the operational phase.'

New company certifications

At Digital Economy Award Night on 21 November, companies and organisations also received 17 certificates in four specialised disciplines:

Gold certificates:

- **Industry 4.0:** Sulzer Management AG with its BLUE BOX™ IoT Advanced Analytics
- **Lean, Agile & Scrum:** Trivadis with its digital blockchain class book
- **Sourcing & Cloud:** SBB with its NOVA platform
- **User Experience:** Netcetera with its decubitus prevention app, FOEN with its Common Natural Hazard Information Platform (Gemeinsame Informationsplattform Naturgefahren – GIN)

The following companies and organisations received one or more Silver and/or Bronze certificates: Apps with love, Federal Office for the Environment, dreipol, Ergon Informatik, Greenliff & Museum of Digital Art, Inside Reality, interactive friends, Ivaris, Liip, newhome.ch, Siemens Mobility.

About the Digital Economy Award

The Digital Economy Award event is hosted by the ICT industry association swissICT and trade press publisher Netzmedien AG. The award came about through a consolidation of the Swiss ICT Award and Swiss Digital Transformation Award. The next awards ceremony will be held on 28 November 2019 at the Hallenstadion in Zurich.

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