Get your top-class science onto the global market! Win the chance to participate in a unique 10-day program for high-potential entrepreneurs, including an entrepreneurship course, networking with venture capitalists and business opportunities in Boston (USA).

Apply by February 16, 2007: www.venturelab.ch/vleaders.asp
venture leaders

“venturelab”, the national initiative of the CTI Innovation Promotion Agency, in close collaboration with the GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG and the international Entrepreneur Of The Year® award by Ernst & Young, presents the latest edition of the “venture leaders” prize for university students / post-graduates / scientists. Don’t miss the chance to participate in a 10-day development program for your startup in the Boston area, to the value of CHF 10,000.

20 carefully selected scientific entrepreneurs will get a unique chance to give their technology a commercial boost, thanks to “venture leaders”. A high-powered jury will provide valuable insights into how to commercialize scientific ideas on the global market. The 20 winners will travel to Boston from June 12 to 22, where they will attend a program composed of an entrepreneurship course and many opportunities to learn about US-style leadership and business development practices.

The rest of the program, organized by SHARE (Swiss House for Advanced Research and Education), will consist of numerous opportunities for face-to-face discussions with leaders of the high-tech community. From presenting your business idea to visiting successful startups in various stages of development, you will gain a rare insight into world-class entrepreneurial businesses of the IT, life sciences and high-tech sectors. The winners will be able to pitch their projects to selected venture capitalists and business personalities from the Boston area.

Those eligible to participate include registered students, post-graduates, scientists of Swiss Universities and Universities of Applied science, pursuing a concrete business opportunity based on their research and are seeking to build up a successful start-up or founding or managing members of innovative technology or science based Swiss startups, with a high market impact potential.

**What I lacked as a scientist was the business background.**

Joël Jean-Mairet was one of the winners in 2001 (former NETS prize). The researcher and co-founder of GLYCART (www.glycart.com) has won other awards, including the Wall Street Journal Innovation Award, and was chosen by BILANZ as one of the 50 key figures on the Swiss biotech scene. He recently sold his company to Roche, for CHF 235 million.

“The venture leaders program is a terrific initiative, which can help a lot to young science and technical guys inexperienced in the business world to realize their dreams and visions. It is much more valuable than winning a bunch of money, but having no real clue about the business world.”

Karoly Farkas c/o Mugan, Winner 2006

**Admission Process**

February 16, 2007 Final date for submission of applications
March 15/16, 2007 Personal presentation by the best 40 applicants in front of the jury

**The Program for the 20 Winners**

- March 30, 2007 - Kick-off Meeting in Bern
- June 12, 2007 - Welcome reception with guests from the Boston startup community, including introduction of the “venture leaders” winners (elevator pitches)
- June 13, 2007 - Reception at SHARE – Consulate of Switzerland - Meeting with business and science leaders
- June 14, 2007 - Visits to successful startups in the Boston area in the life science, IT/software and high-tech sectors - “Idea to IPO” case study by Ernst & Young
- June 15, 18–20, 2007 - Entrepreneurship course at Babson College - Exciting case studies with specific challenges of high-tech startups (venture capital financing, deal structuring, marketing, key account management etc.) - The program is extremely practically oriented and interactive, and makes frequent references to the actual problems of the participating startups
- June 21, 2007 - Networking Day - Meeting with venture capitalists / business partners
- June 22, 2007 - Optional: Visit to Harvard University

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