



Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D
25 - 27 June 2019
Messe Erfurt

Start-ups point the way in the 3D printing industry
EUR 14,000 in prize money awarded to the "Start-Ups of the Year" at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D

(Erfurt, 22 July 2019) Late June and Erfurt was once again the "capital of 3D printing" for the 16th Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D. High-calibre experts and specialized companies gathered from 25 to 27 June 2019 to discuss trends, developments and research results in additive manufacturing (AM). The Start-Up Awards presented at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D showcased the latest information and launches from the creative scene.

Innovative 3D printing and digital fabrication start-ups had submitted their applications. A total of seven finalists, selected by an expert jury from industry and research, were given the opportunity to present themselves and their developments free of charge in the Start-Up Area at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D in Erfurt. The young entrepreneurs battled it out for the title of "Start-Up of the Year" in a series of exciting pitches.

This year, the highly coveted title went to Glassomer GmbH from Freiburg for their development of a new material (called Glassomer). This allows high-resolution transparent glass to be printed in 3D for the very first time. Glassomer technology is based on "glassomers", which consist of glass particles in a heat-treatable liquid. These can then be processed and shaped in commercially available 3D printers. The finished components are then converted into glass in the oven. Co-founder, Dr.-Ing. Frederik Kotz, is delighted at winning "Start-Up of the Year": "Taking part in the Start-Up Awards at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D was a resounding success for us – of course, we're over the moon that we won. Our stand at the exhibition was equally beneficial; we were able to convince a wide audience of our technology and established many key contacts – including the industry's major manufacturers and VCs."

Second place went to Darmstadt Graphics Group for an intelligent software solution for the automated optimisation of 3D models. Co-founder, Felix Limper, explains that the main goal of taking part in the competition was to boost visibility of the young company. "The exhibition and opportunity to foster contacts were a very important part of this. The award is a great platform for presenting your vision and attracting investors," says Limper.

British start-up FabPub scooped third prize for its universal construction machine, Polibot. FabPub supports communities by giving them access to digital manufacturing and production time tools, with access to experts in the field.

Partners of the Start-Up Awards once again provided some excellent prizes. Winners could look forward to prize money totalling over EUR 14,000. All the winners were also awarded a free exhibition stand at next year's Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D; first and second-place winners will receive coaching from jury members Arno Held (AM Ventures) and Carl Fruth (FIT AG), as well as two free Cur3D software licences from Ruhrsource, valid for one year.



AM Ventures, a leading global investor in industrial 3D printing, returned as this year's platinum sponsor of the Start-Up Awards. Other Start-Up Award partners and backers included bm-t beteiligungsmanagement thüringen, Coparion, FIT AG, Ruhrsource, Trumpf Venture GmbH, Canto and MUST 3D Printing.

The Start-Up Awards will return next year as part of the international trade show and conference for additive technologies, Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D. Those interested in doing so can use the Awards as an opportunity to introduce themselves and present their own visions.

The 17th Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D. will be held from 16 to 18 June 2020 in Erfurt, once again offering numerous presentation opportunities and space for networking.

"As Germany's longest-running conference and trade fair on this topic, Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D has once again shown that the Erfurt event is a firm fixture on the AM family's early summer calendar. We're building on this and implementing an extensive investment programme that will further improve our range of visitor and exhibitor services over the coming years. The initial results will already be visible at Rapid.Tech + FabCon 3.D 2020. We're really excited about this," says Michael Kynast, CEO of Messe Erfurt GmbH.

Take a look back at this year's highlights at: <https://www.rapidtech-fabcon.de/rahmenprogramm/start-up-award-2019.html>.

Further information: www.rapidtech-fabcon.com

Messe Erfurt GmbH press contact

Anne Apel
Tel: +49 361 400 15 30
Mob: +49 173 389 89 99
[apel\(at\)messe-erfurt.de](mailto:apel(at)messe-erfurt.de)