

Press release

10/06/2024

HIGH-TECH.NRW Demo Day: Ambitious start-ups pitch their ideas at Wilopark

Wilo welcomes entrepreneurs as well as guests from politics, business and science

Dortmund. The fourth batch of the HIGH-TECH.NRW accelerator programme culminated in a Demo Day at Wilopark. After twelve weeks of mentoring and coaching, the founders of ten hardware-based high-tech and deep-tech start-ups from all over North Rhine-Westphalia presented their ideas to a large audience and took part in the competition. The event was supported by the host Wilo and the Economic Development Agency Dortmund.

"We are delighted to be able to host the HIGH-TECH.NRW Demo Day at the Wilopark. The opportunity for representatives from politics, business and science to engage in discussions with ambitious entrepreneurs makes this event particularly exciting", explains Georg Weber, Member of the Executive Board and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the Wilo Group. "The innovative spirit of this event suits Wilo as a technology company. We are the pioneers of our industry – and are therefore fully committed to promoting a vibrant start-up culture."

During the Demo Day, the start-up entrepreneurs pitched their innovations and business ideas for five minutes each to the guests and a panel of experts, who then selected three winning teams:

- **OSPHIM** was awarded **first place**, taking home 20,000 euros in prize money. The team uses AI to optimise the process of setting up injection-moulding machines in the plastics-processing industry.
- **Second place** and 6,000 euros in prize money went to **mechIC**. This start-up develops micromechanical components that are interconnected in a network similar to electronic components and implemented on a silicon chip.

Press release

- **Third place** and 4,000 euros in prize money went to **Hydrogenea**. This company develops and produces innovative membrane electrode assemblies (MEA) for the next generation of fuel cells and electrolyzers.

HIGH-TECH.NRW is a network which promotes high-tech and deep-tech business in North Rhine-Westphalia. This early-stage start-up accelerator is commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and is implemented and orchestrated by the think tank NMWP Management.



Image caption: The start-ups OSPHIM, mechIC and Hydrogenea were the victors at the HIGH-TECH.NRW Demo Day that took place at Wilopark. Image: WILO SE

Press release



Image caption: Georg Weber (left), Member of the Executive Board and Chief Technology Officer of the Wilo Group, acquaints himself with start-ups, their innovations and business ideas at the HIGH-TECH.NRW Demo Day together with Dr Kirsten Bender, Head of the Economy and Innovation Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as Heike Marzen, Managing Director of the Economic Development Agency Dortmund (not shown in the picture). Image: WILO SE

Press contact:

Silas Schefers

Wilo Group

Tel: +49 231 4102 7160

Mobile: +49 173 895 91 87

silas.schefers@wilo.com

Press release

About Wilo:

The Wilo Group is one of the world's leading premium suppliers of pumps and pump systems for building services, water management and the industrial sector. In the last decade, we have evolved from a hidden to a visible and connected champion. Wilo employs around 9,000 people around the globe today. With innovative solutions, smart products and individual services, we provide the intelligent, efficient and environmentally friendly service of keeping water flowing. We already are the digital pioneer within the industry with our products and solutions, processes and business models.

For more information, go to www.wilo.com.