

Press release

Factory1 2K19: Kapsch Group starts the second round of its open innovation program.

Five startups from the USA, the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland and Germany were able to win over the expert jury and secure the opportunity to participate in the four-month accelerator program. The Austrian technology group will provide expertise and resources.

Vienna, February 28, 2019 – In the course of an evening event on February 27 in Vienna, a total of 15 startups from Europe, the Middle East, North America, and South Africa pitched their concepts to the Kapsch expert jury. Overall, nearly 200 start-ups from around the world applied to participate in this year's Factory1 Accelerator Program.

53 mentors from 14 countries and various companies of the Kapsch Group will provide support for the program. The solutions developed jointly with these young entrepreneurs are intended to form the basis for long-term collaborations and exert a lasting influence on the mobility of the future. "We are convinced that innovation begins where familiar borders can be crossed, where comfort zones are left behind, and where proven methods are redefined," explains Georg Kapsch, CEO of the Kapsch Group. "That's why we initiated Kapsch Factory1 as part of our open innovation strategy – the entire Executive Board and our managers and employees support the accelerator program."

The accelerator program at a glance:

- > 4-month development of a business case
- > Mentoring by Kapsch experts
- > Equity-free project financing
- > Joint further development of the prototypes into proof-of-concept projects
- > Acceleration days in Vienna and the US

"We are looking for start-ups that share our passion for technology and our will to design the future of mobility – and we have found them," adds Marcus Handl, Head of Corporate Development & Innovation at Kapsch. "With the required resources and technologies, the expertise of our mentors, and our international customer base, the selected start-ups will be in a good position to create successful proof-of-concept projects."

The five winners and thus the participants in the Factory1 Accelerator Program:

Aerostate, USA

Aerostate provides cities and businesses with air quality analysis and 4-day weather forecasts by city district. The analytics tools convert the raw forecast data into realizable findings for apps or IoT applications. The platform is designed to help cities make decisions that impact the city ecology. The startup has its origins in Moscow, Russia and was founded in 2015 by Dmitry Solomentsev.

Bestmile, Switzerland

The Swiss startup Bestmile is working on the optimization of public and private fleets consisting of autonomous and vehicles with human drivers. Their platform helps to deploy, manage, and optimize fleets with any type of vehicle for any type of service. Customers include PostBus, Switzerland's largest bus transit company.

Derq, United Arab Emirates

Through the use of Artificial Intelligence and connected vehicle technology, Derq can anticipate and prevent car crashes. The startup is based in Dubai based and originally a spin-off from MIT. In 2017 Derq went through the renowned Techstars accelerator.

Exeon Analytics, Switzerland

Exeon Analytics uses machine learning to analyze activities in a corporate network and to identify and investigate malware infections and data breaches hiding in regular network traffic. According to the startup this allows the customers to find the so-called 'needle in the haystack' and transform collected log data into actionable security insights.

Objectbox, Germany

Objectbox has developed a database that is especially optimized for small IoT and mobile devices. The database needs less than 1 MB storage space and, according to Objectbox, is many times faster than competing products.



Picture: The Kapsch Factory1 team together with the participating startups.
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Founded in 1892, the family-owned company headquartered in Vienna today is a globally operating technology group with over 7,200 employees. The Kapsch Group comprises the key entities Kapsch BusinessCom, Kapsch CarrierCom, Kapsch PublicTransportCom und Kapsch TrafficCom and focuses on peoples' requirements in the fields of communication and mobility. With innovative products and solutions, Kapsch makes a significant contribution to a sustainable future in public and private transportation as well as in digitalization.

Kapsch strives for global leadership in terms of quality and innovation and therefore annually invests some 10% of its total revenue in research and development. R&D centers in the strategic business segments of the Kapsch Group are constantly working to make new technologies marketable. Long-standing cooperations with scientific institutions as well as strategic acquisitions provide additional know-how.

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