

## PRESS RELEASE

London, February 8th, 2019

**Six finalists did a live pitch in the House of Lords on the 7th of February 2019, by kind invitation of Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames, in front of a panel of well known tech-savvy judges\*.**

**Zsuzsa Mayer** of **EcoSync** won the Conceptual Award and **Alex Depledge** of **RESI** won the Veteran Award, and were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the technology industry.

We were hugely grateful not only to **Lord Marks** who sponsored the event but to our sponsors **Lucien Collard** and to **Claire Cockerton** and **Marcia Zander** who offered to give mentoring to the winners of the Conceptual and Veterans Awards.

The competition was fierce with over 30 top-class applications, from which the judges selected a short list of 19, which was then narrowed down to six finalists\*\*, who did their live pitch in the House of Lords.

Women techpreneurs applied either for the **Conceptual Award** if they have founded an enterprise which has not yet started actively trading, or the **Veteran Award** if they have founded a business which has a turnover of less than £10m.



The Awards were founded in 2014 with the objective of encouraging women to set up their own tech-related businesses and praising existing women Techpreneurs and are strictly non-profit.

**Fiona Scott-Lazareff, Founder of the Awards and of Divento.com** said in her speech: It is now widely recognised that diversity in a team has unquestionable advantages, but even better, recent statistics show that backing **women founders gives higher returns**. A study released recently from the Boston Consulting Group and MassChallenge, a network of startup accelerators, found that of the 350 companies examined, the average woman-founded startup received \$935,000 in funding.

That's less than half of the \$2.1 million awarded on average to the male-founded startups in the study. The **female-founded startups outperformed their male counterparts' in terms of revenue**, bringing in \$730,000 over a five-year period versus \$662,000 for the men. When you crunch the numbers, that means these women-run companies are returning 78 cents per dollar compared to 31 cents for the men.

Apart from the kudos of winning, and the chance to get themselves under the scrutiny of nine venture capitalists, and to get a personal introduction to angel investors, the winners received a case of Lucien Collard champagne, and mentoring from **Claire Cockerton and Marcia Zander, both ace techpreneurs.**

**The awards were attended by the Who's Who of the international tech community: techpreneurs, angel investors, journalists, VCs and a long list of VIPs including Leah Martin (Episode1), Lauren Von Stackelberg (JP Morgan), Natasha Ehrmann (JP Morgan), Margaret Perchik (Prime Ventures), Juliette Souliman (Octopus Ventures), Tom Butterworth (Silicon Valley Bank), Mike Butcher (TechCrunch).**



#### \* JUDGES 2019

##### **Maggie Rodriguez-Piza: CEO, Funding London**

Since taking the helm at Funding London in late 2009, Maggie's main focus has been the planning, creation and launch of new funds to continue to support the company's mission.

##### **Camilla Dolan: Principal, Burda Principal Investments**

Camilla joined Burda in 2017 and heads up the London office, looking at investment across Europe including France, Scandinavia and Germany. Camilla is a growth stage investor in B2C digital companies.

##### **Judith Clegg: CEO and Founder, Takeout**

Judith is a highly experienced consultant, award winning entrepreneur and co-creator of the #HANDSOFF campaign to end violence against women and children.

##### **Danvers Baillieu: COO InfoSum**

Danvers is a qualified solicitor, and worked in corporate law firms in London for over 10 years, before taking up his first COO role in 2012. He joined InfoSum in 2016.

##### **Daniela Menzky: Chief Operating Officer at CyNation Limited**

Daniela has over 25 years of international and diverse industry sector experience, ranging from senior general management expertise within global corporates such as Kodak, Avon Products and HAVI Logistics to technology SMEs. She is the Co-founder and COO of CyNation, a cyber security and compliance solutions firm.

### **Manjari Chandran-Ramesh: Investment Director within the Technology Partnership, IP Group**

Manjari Chandran-Ramesh, is an Investment Director, Technology at IP Group plc where she takes an active role as a Board Director in various software (AI/Machine Learning) assets of the portfolio whilst also evaluating new opportunities. Most recently has been responsible for the trade sale of TheySay Ltd. A Rhodes Scholar, she has a PhD from University of Oxford (Mobile Robotics Group).

### **Stephanie Opdam: VC Investor, Notion**

Stephanie works in the Investment team at Notion ([www.notion.vc](http://www.notion.vc)) where she is actively searching for disruptive tech investments in the B2B space in Europe at the Series A/B stages. Prior, Stephanie worked at Columbia Lake Partners, where she was responsible for the analysis of growth stage technology companies and the structuring of venture debt facilities.

### **Bridget Connell: Angel Investor**

Bridget is an Angel investor who concentrates on technology start-ups founded by women. She has a background of over 25 years working in IT, digital and mobile at DHL, O2 and Telefonica as Programme Director where she specialised bringing new ideas and disruptive technologies quickly to market. Bridget is an accredited coach and works with entrepreneurs supporting them in rapidly scaling their businesses and obtaining external investment.

### **Sarah Ryan: Group Corporate Development Director, CentralNic plc.**

Sarah Ryan is the Group Corporate Development Director at CentralNic plc., sourcing and executing acquisitions to implement the company's acquisition-led growth strategy. Previously, had similar roles at LexisNexis and Thomson Financial and began her career as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch.

## **\*\* FINALISTS 2019**

### **CONCEPTUAL AWARD**

#### **Zsuzsa Mayer, Eco Sync**

Zsuzsa is a chartered engineer and a chartered scientist with an MSc in chemical engineering (2008) and a PhD in renewable energy (2012). She also holds several patents on biofuel production. In addition, she was also the youngest (and first women) laboratory manager in Oxford University.

#### **Anya Roy, Syrona**

As a co-founder of Syrona, Anya has a background in mathematics and science. She is a graduate of Cambridge University and has diverse experience working in top tier investment banks such as Goldman Sachs and the EIB, the investment banking arm of the EU.

#### **Gita Khalili Moghaddam, TumourVue**

Gita is the director and lead entrepreneur of TumourVue Ltd with 14 years of experience in artificial intelligence and Medtech. With a PhD degree in biomedical engineering and a PhD degree in biotechnology, she is role model for other women in innovative technologies.

## **VETERAN AWARD**

### **Alex Depledge, Resi**

Alex is CEO and, with Jules Coleman, co-founder of Resi. Prior to this, in 2012, the pair set up Hassle.com, now called Helping.co.uk, Europe's largest domestic cleaning marketplace. In addition, Alex is an advocate for workplace well-being and regularly comments on issues such as mental health and maternity/ paternity rights.

### **Lise Pape, Walk With Path**

Lise leads the team at Walk With Path and is responsible for overall project management, product development and future commercialisation. Her background is in Human Biology and Innovation Design Engineering from King's College London, Imperial College, and the Royal College of Art.

### **Colleen Becker, Sampson Solutions**

Colleen's career began in internationally renowned arts and cultural organisations including the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Whitney Museum and the Guggenheim, and carried through a freelance non-profit business development career in New York.