

# Reach the people who are almost impossible to reach.



Exclusive access to Europe's leading decision-makers in tech and innovation — made possible by Campus Founders for 30 selected startups.

Opportunities to participate are extremely limited. However, the HOUSE OF STARTUPS offers you a stage that is otherwise out of reach.

Apply as a startup and be part of this exclusive platform.

## HOUSE OF STARTUPS

by **CAMPUS FOUNDERS**

at **TECH**  
by Handelsblatt

**31.05. – 02.06**  
Theresienwiese, Heilbronn



## About TECH

More details and full agenda at [tech-europe.org](https://tech-europe.org)

## What to expect at TECH 2026

## Selected Speakers of 2026

Offering unparalleled expertise and deep insights

1.800 of the continent's most influential leaders from industry, technology, politics, and science come together in Heilbronn to shape the European innovation agenda.

**May 31 to June 2, 2026**

**Fairground Theresienwiese, Heilbronn, Germany.**

Three days full of inspiring insights and valuable opportunities for exchange. Top-level speakers from politics, academia, and business. 1:1 networking with the decision-makers of Europe's innovation scene.

**Michael Schoellhorn,**  
CEO at Airbus Defence and Space

**Gernot Döllner,**  
Chairman of the Board at Audi AG

**Alex Creely,**  
Chief Engineer at Commonwealth Fusion Systems

**Eléonore Crespo,**  
Co-Founder and Co-CEO at Pigment

**Dirk Häußermann,**  
Managing Director at SAP

**Ilse Henne,**  
Member of the Executive Board at thyssenkrupp

**Ieva Krekovska,**  
Director of the Cybersecurity Policy Department at the Ministry of Defence of Latvia

**Rafael Laguna de la Vera,**  
Director of SPRIN-D (German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation)

**Carlo Ratti,**  
Professor at MIT

**Lennard Schmidt,**  
Co-Founder and CEO at Langdock

**Hauke Stars,**  
Member of the Board at Volkswagen AG

**Su Yang,**  
Head of AI and Innovation at BNP Paribas

**Donya-Florence Amer,**  
Member of the Executive Board, CIO & CHRO at Hapag-Lloyd

**Thierry Breton,**  
Former Commissioner Internal Market at the European Union

**Alexandra Beckstein,**  
Co-Founder and CEO at QAI Ventures

**Rolf Schumann,**  
Co-CEO at Schwarz Digits  
and many more



# HOUSE OF STARTUPS

by Campus Founders



## About the HOUSE OF STARTUPS

Startups are an integral part of the tech and innovation ecosystem. The House of Startups will bring together innovative founders and startups from across Europe to showcase cutting-edge solutions, foster collaboration with the TECH ecosystem, and help shape a resilient future for Europe.

After four years of Heilbronn Slush'D, we know exactly what it takes to create the moments where real things happen. We bring that experience and energy to the heart of TECH by Handelsblatt.

Campus Founders will add a focused layer for startups and founders to TECH: curated startup visibility, high-quality networking, and valuable exchange with corporate leaders, investors and policy-makers. It's our goal to create startup success stories and accelerate co-innovation.



HOUSE OF STARTUPS

# Focus Area

We are looking for **high-potential startups** operating in **advanced technology fields** that have moved beyond the idea stage and **demonstrate initial market traction**. This includes a working product, customer traction or revenue, and a clear path towards growth.

A strong application is characterized by a **differentiated, defensible technology**, such as proprietary IP, patents, or unique technical capabilities, rather than funding alone. While companies typically range from Seed to Series B (or strong bootstrapped equivalents), the primary focus is on **real-world validation, growth potential, and technological moat**.



HOUSE OF STARTUPS

# Focus Area

## Quantum + Compute

- Quantum Software Stacks
- Quantum Sensing
- Error Correction Solutions
- Quantum Secure Communications
- ...

## Climate + Energy Tech

- Grid Optimization with AI
- Battery Technology
- Carbon Removal / Monitoring
- Industrial Decarbonization
- ...

## AI - Infrastructure + Sovereign AI

- Foundation Models
- AI Agents + Enterprise Automation
- AI Infrastructure
- Data Governance / AI Security Tools
- ...

## Space Tech

- Orbital Infrastructure
- Space Logistics
- Launch Platforms
- Earth Observation Analytics
- ...

## Cyber Security + Digital Sovereignty

- Post Quantum Cryptography
- AI-Driven Threat Detection
- Privacy-Preserving Analytics
- Zero Trust Enterprise Security
- ...

## Defence + Security Tech

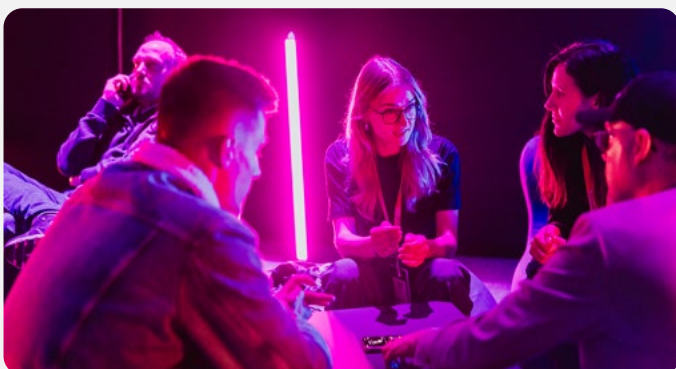
- Autonomous Drones
- AI for Battlefield Intelligence
- Cyber Defence Platforms
- Satellite Surveillance
- ...

## Industrial Deeptech / Industry 4.0

- Industrial AI for Manufacturing
- Predictive Maintenance
- Robotics + Autonomous Production
- Edge AI for Factories
- ...

Your field isn't listed, but you think you're on the cutting edge?

Apply anyway and show us, that you are the right match!



HOUSE OF STARTUPS

# Process & Application

**Limited spaces. Unlimited opportunity.**  
**Short timeline — so apply early.**

## Application process

Fill out the application form to be considered.

**Deadline “asap”:** Since the event date is already close, we will be choosing candidates on a weekly rolling basis until all 30 exclusive startup slots are assigned.

If you are accepted and confirm your participation, we will require a € 500,- contribution toward the expenses for infrastructure, logistics and attendance.

## What's in it for you

- Exclusive access to TECH 2026
- Timeslot for showcasing at the dedicated House of Startups with a demo table
- Demo table prepared and provided with screen and electricity

TECH is a 3-day event, running from Sunday 31.05. noon until Tuesday 02.06. afternoon.

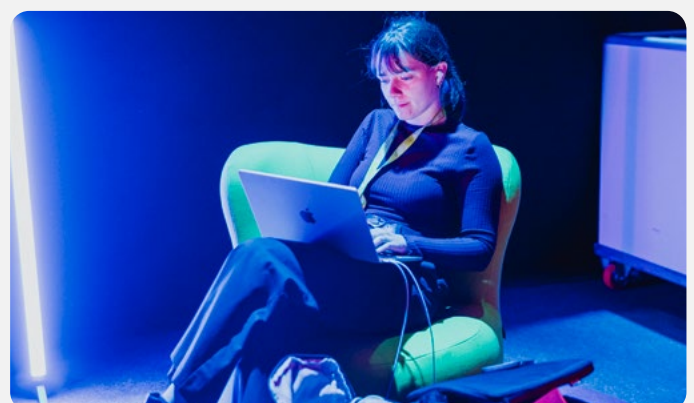
We will assign startups one of the following slots:

- Sunday noon to Monday noon
- Monday noon to Tuesday noon

**APPLY NOW**



[Go To  
Application Form](#)



## Heilbronn loves Founders

Over the past years, Campus Founders has played a central role in Heilbronn's emergence as an internationally recognized innovation hub. Our Heilbronn Slush'D startup festival became a defining catalyst in that journey: it attracted thousands of founders, investors, and industry leaders, created international visibility for Heilbronn, and helped establish a culture of ambitious entrepreneurship and collaboration between startups and established companies.

The Heilbronn-Franken region is emerging as one of Europe's most dynamic innovation hubs, driven by the development of the Innovation Park Artificial Intelligence (IPAI), a 23-hectare campus dedicated to accelerating applied AI. It brings together startups, global companies, researchers, and investors to collaborate on real-world AI solutions in close proximity.

The region benefits from a strong industrial backbone, with numerous global market leaders and highly innovative family-owned companies across sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, electronics, and IT—creating ideal conditions for startup collaboration and scaling. At the same time, a unique concentration of academic excellence on the Heilbronn Education Campus—including institutions such as the Technical University of Munich (TUM), ETH Zurich, Hochschule Heilbronn, DHBW, as well as Fraunhofer and Max Planck institutes—ensures direct access to talent, research, and cutting-edge knowledge.

At the center of this ecosystem is GRAVITY, a 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> innovation space by Campus Founders, designed to bring together entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors in an environment built for co-creation and growth. With a rapidly expanding student population and a dense network of research and innovation institutions, Heilbronn offers exceptional conditions for startups to build, test, and scale frontier technologies.



## Campus Founders

Campus Founders is the startup and co-innovation hub based in Heilbronn. Designed to support all phases of the entrepreneurial journey – from initial idea generation and validating problem-solution fit to achieving product-market fit and scaling sustainably – Campus Founders empowers early-stage startups to accelerate their progress and drive international growth.

As a platform, Campus Founders unites students, founders, investors, and companies to promote meaningful collaboration and co-innovation. Its vibrant community of over 1,000 members regularly engages in events and networking formats.

Campus Founders is a part of the NXTGN Startup Factory, which further strengthens the collaboration among Baden-Württemberg's most research- and startup-intensive locations.



is one of Europe's leading start-up hubs 2026. Campus Founders is part of NXTGN.



As part of the RISE Europe network – linking 20 leading startup ecosystems across 14 countries – Campus Founders builds vital bridges to international markets and experts.

