AI STARTUP CENTER MAGAZINE 2025

Editorial

Christian Hugo Hoffmann
Director AI Startup Center

Every year, Switzerland tops global rankings in innovation, competitiveness, and quality of life.

The Global Innovation Index has ranked Switzerland first for over a decade — a remarkable feat for a country of just nine million people. Yet, this raises a deeper question: what is Switzerland doing differently? Is there truly a "Swiss model" of innovation, or is the country's success the product of a unique blend of culture, institutions, and capital?

With regard to AI and AI innovations, my answer to this question is threefold:

1. When the world succumbs to chaos and instability, Switzerland stays a safe harbor for businesses and investors, which was true in the 20th century where already tech companies such as IBM bet early on on Switzerland, and which is true today.
2. Switzerland and, in particular Zurich, is home to globally leading academic institutions which attract talents worldwide and trains them for tomorrow's job market, being shaped by AI.
3. Switzerland and Zurich count a high number of startups and small companies (especially per capita). In my research, I already showed that AI startups play a crucial role in coining a both economically viable and morally progressive society.

The AI Startup Center by Technopark Zürich has been built on this latter finding and is bringing it to practical impact to contribute to both the wider Swiss AI hub and our esteemed corporate partners. Our corporate partners, Siemens, Everllence, QBIT Capital, Wenger Vieli and Supercomputing Systems, not only benefit from the innovations developed by our startups, but also provide them with guidance to increase their chances of success. I am delighted and proud that the AI Startup Center has been a success right from the start when we officially opened our doors in February 2025. My team and I managed to not only onboard 30+ AI startups in our community in less than one year, but we also organized a wide range of exclusive and public events to activate our community and give external stakeholders the opportunity to get to know us better. Thirdly and most importantly, we have been actively working on our key mission to enable first success stories by empowering both sides, startups and incumbents, and connecting the two. On the following pages, these activities and achievements will be portrayed and illustrated.

For 2026, we are looking forward to growing the AI Startup Center, which in terms of its physical space is already fully booked out, along three lines: its corporate members covering more verticals and industries, its startup members going hand in hand with an expansion of the physical space, its integration into networks of other innovation ecosystems such as our trusted partner KI Park, present in Berlin and Stockholm among others. I am very grateful to my team and our community members, the startups and established companies that make the AI Startup Center a reality, for their invaluable contributions on this journey. Let us take a moment to celebrate and find out more about them in this magazine.

Yours,
Christian Hugo Hoffmann

Highlights of the Zurich AI Hub 2025

FEBRUARY — Opening of the AI Startup Center

MARCH — Zurich reaches higher Big Tech company density than Silicon Valley

APRIL — GenAI Zürich Summit gathers 300+ AI professionals and visionary leaders from 40+ countries at Technopark Zürich

MAY — Zurich-based ANYbotics receives the 2025 Export Award from Switzerland Global Enterprise for its successful global expansion strategy

JUNE — Switzerland is named the world's most competitive economy in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2025, leading in government efficiency and infrastructure

JULY — Swiss Venture Capital Report: Zurich-based AI and Deeptech startups in the ICT and fintech sectors attracted over 80% more investment in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024

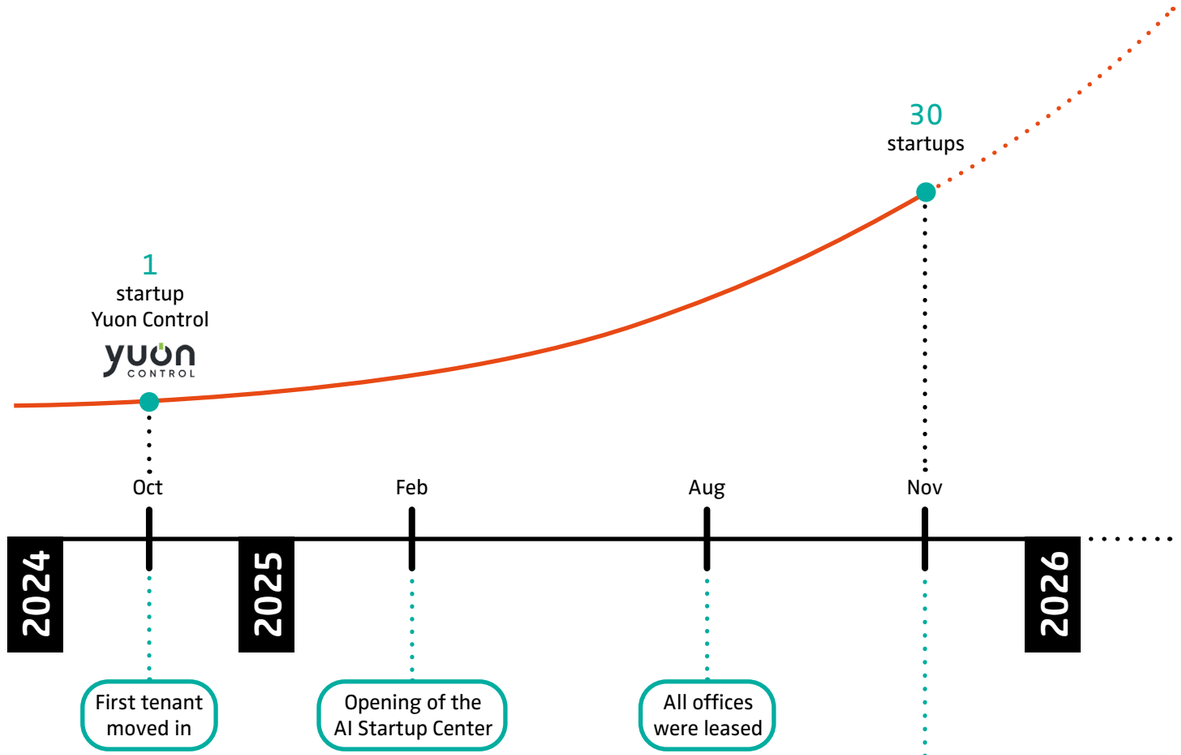
AUGUST — Kebab on wheels: A robot from ETH spin-off RIVR is delivering meals in Zurich as part of a pilot project with Just Eat

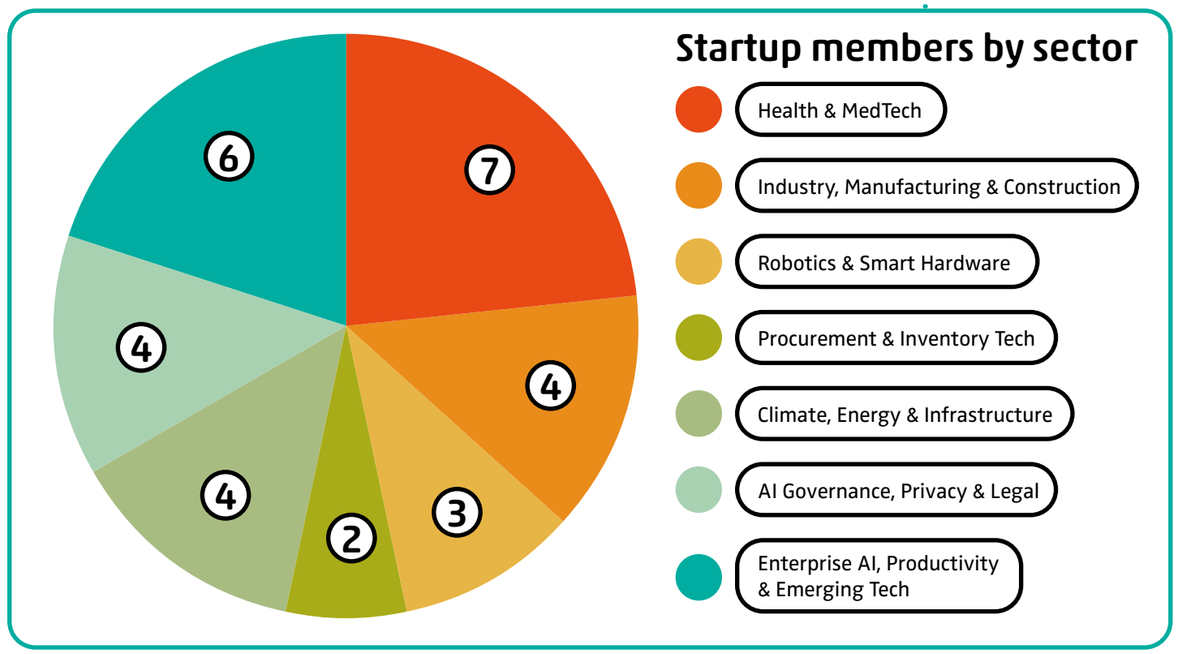
SEPTEMBER — AI Startup Center Flagship Event: Zurich Robotics & AI Founders Summit as part of the first Zurich AI Festival

OCTOBER — The Zurich AI Festival 2025 is a huge success, uniting 5,500+ global AI experts and showcasing the city as a hub for AI innovation

NOVEMBER — European Spinouts Report 2025: Switzerland leads Europe in Deep Tech and Robotics spin-offs per capita and ranks among the top countries in absolute numbers

The AI Startup Center in numbers





Where Industry Meets Startups: Siemens and Visium Explore Potentials

Ives Huwiler
Business Excellence Manager
Siemens Switzerland

Franco Seliner
AI-based Digital Transformation Manager
Siemens Switzerland

Q How did you find the workshop at the AI Startup Center on September 10? How did the workshop help enable the breakthrough in commencing your collaboration with Visium, and what did you think of the guidance from the AI Startup Center?

Ives Huwiler The workshop was really interesting and efficient. We came with some specific challenges we've been working on mainly around streamlining our internal workflows and improving efficiency in our development cycles. The AI Startup Center did a great job bringing together different startups with complementary expertise.

Franco Seliner I really appreciated the format. It wasn't just presentations, but actual working sessions where we could dig into specific use cases. Meeting Visium was interesting because they have experience in our actual cases, which could potentially help us.

Ives Huwiler I wouldn't call it a breakthrough yet, it was more about identifying potential synergies. The guidance from the AI Startup Center was valuable for creating a platform which allows fast connections and meaningful conversations.

Q What specific goals did you identify as the outcome of the workshop at the AI Startup Center? What steps or processes helped you work together effectively?

Franco Seliner We identified a few areas where there might be mutual benefit, mainly around workflow automation and processes.

Ives Huwiler The main objective arising from the workshop was to better understand each other's capabilities and see if there's a fit for collaboration. We agreed to have follow-up technical discussions to explore specific use cases where Visium's approach might complement our internal processes.

Q We are aware that the workshop only took place in September 2025. Therefore we would assume that your partnership is still in its infancy. What are the early outcomes and what are the expectations for 2026?

Ives Huwiler We're still in the very early exploration phase. Since September, we've had a couple of technical discussions to better understand how our approaches might work together. It's really about building understanding at this point. For 2026, it's too early to make specific predictions. If our current discussions prove fruitful, we might move toward one or two pilot use-cases, followed by a more structured collaboration. But we're taking it step by step.

Franco Seliner The initial outcome is mainly about knowledge sharing. What's been particularly valuable is getting fresh, out-of-the-box perspectives on challenges we've been working on internally. Sometimes it takes an external view to spark new ideas and approaches.

Q What have been the most valuable insights or mutual findings from the collaboration so far? How has working together influenced your approaches or perspectives?

Franco Seliner The most valuable insight has been understanding different approaches to process optimization. Visium brings a fresh perspective as well as a wide and deep knowledge of implementing AI solutions across workflows.

Ives Huwiler It's also been interesting to see how a smaller, more agile organization approaches problem-solving. In the next steps, we are interested to see how we can adapt and implement some of these experiences in our environment.

Q Now looking toward the future, what possible impact could you see from the currently early stage of your partnership evolving and how can this be seen as best practice for the further development of the AI Startup Center?

Franco Seliner If this exploration develops into a real partnership, it could serve as a model for how to approach startup collaboration thoughtfully - starting with clear use cases, building understanding gradually, and maintaining realistic expectations.

Ives Huwiler Looking ahead, we could imagine Visium potentially becoming an AI partner for Siemens Switzerland, supporting use case implementation, and assisting with internal developments.

Franco Seliner Whether or not this particular exploration leads to a formal partnership, the process itself has been valuable. We've learned about new approaches and gained insights that will benefit our work regardless. That's a success in itself.

From Workshop to Impact: Enabling Early AI Collaborations

Everllence & Octotronic

Caroline Gehlen
Head of Digital Product Delivery Industries
Everllence Switzerland

Patrik Meli
Managing Director
Everllence Switzerland

Q How did you perceive the workshop at the AI Startup Center on June 26? How did the workshop help enable the breakthrough in starting your collaboration and how did you perceive the guidance of the AI Startup Center?

A The workshop was a very helpful opportunity to gain a comprehensive overview of the AI startup landscape and identify potential partners to address our business challenges. The AI Startup Center provided a clear framework for discovery and facilitated the initial contact, which helped us explore relevant solutions and initiate conversations we might not have had otherwise. The informal apéro afterward created a relaxed setting to continue networking and exchange ideas, which we found particularly valuable.

Q What concrete goals did you identify as the outcome of the workshop at the AI Startup Center? What steps or processes helped you work together with Octotronic effectively?

A A direct outcome of the workshop was the decision to schedule a follow-up session with Octotronic to gain deeper insights into their products and evaluate their relevance for our use cases.

Q What have been the most valuable insights or mutual learnings from the collaboration so far? How has working together influenced your approaches or perspectives?

A One of the most valuable insights has been recognizing the diversity of startups in the ecosystem and seeing that many are addressing challenges similar to our own. This opens up opportunities for potential synergies and shared learning. Our exchange with Octotronic has encouraged us to reflect on potential areas of collaboration and consider new perspectives on how we approach certain business needs.

QBIT Capital & Manukai

Georges Khneysser
Founder &
Chief Vision Officer
QBIT Capital

Q Georges Khneysser, on your Linkedin profile it says that you're the chief vision officer at QBIT Capital. You also prove to be very visionary when it comes to the AISC - you were not only the first corporate member that was boarded on, you were also the first to commit for the first 10 years. Can you share more about your vision with QBIT Capital and the AISC?

A The vision behind QBIT Capital and the AI Startup Center is very simple: Switzerland has all the ingredients to become one of the world's leading deep-tech and AI hubs — world-class academia, exceptional talent, infrastructure, and a culture of precision. Our role is to act as one of the bridges connecting these strengths to capital and to long-term company building.

We invest early, stay close to the founders, and help them turn scientific breakthroughs into real companies. This is also why we became the first corporate member of the AI Startup Center and the first to commit for ten years. In my view, long-term commitments are the only way to build a real ecosystem.

Q We already did an event together, the Investors Day on July 2, 2025. How did you perceive the event and the quality of the startups?

A The Investor Day was valuable. The format, the curation quality, and the density of technical talent stood out. What we appreciated most was that the teams weren't just pitching concepts; they were demonstrating real technical depth and early client engagement. For a hub that is still relatively young, the maturity level of the startups was well above what we typically see.

From a VC perspective, it was clear that the Center isn't trying to be a glossy showcase but rather a place where serious founders with real technical ambitions get support. That's exactly the type of environment we want to be associated with.

Q We are delighted to notice that QBIT Capital is already invested in one of our Startup members. What can you share with us today about how the collaboration between Manukai and QBIT Capital is expected to develop going forward?

A From our side, the collaboration will continue to grow in a focused and structured way. With Manukai's ETH roots and the strong technical depth of the founding team, we see potential for the company to become a category-defining Swiss industrial-tech player. In our view, Manukai has all the right ingredients to emerge as one of the standout advanced-manufacturing startups in the country. The key now is focus and disciplined execution, this is where QBIT's involvement can have an impact.

Your competitors are still debating the need for an AI ethicist; be a first mover!

A guest contribution by
Arlette Danielle Román Almánzar
ETH Zurich & ETH AI Center

Without a doubt, artificial intelligence (AI) has brought multiple benefits. However, the very features that make AI transformative, particularly its high levels of autonomy, capacity to generate independent goals, and reduced human control, also introduce serious risks that may cause societal harm and blur lines of responsibility. AI is not merely a technical endeavor but a socio-technical system with the potential to impact human rights at scale.

Beyond fostering disruptive innovation, companies must manage uncertainty amid more than 172 ethical guidelines, differing regulations across jurisdictions, and pervasive ambiguity about how to operationalize ethical principles in design. Unfortunately, AI scandals abound, including chatbots that have encouraged suicide, class-action lawsuits alleging that Workday's hiring algorithms discriminated against applicants over 40 years old, and Amazon's hiring algorithm, which excluded résumés containing the word "women". These issues arise from different causes, and are not limited to biased data and technical glitches. Focus should also be placed on the human creators and the normative decision to mitigate bias or not. These are dangerous societal harms, which also translate into significant financial and reputational damage. Thus, interdisciplinary collaborations between non-technical and technical experts are needed to map out societal and ethical risks at early stages of development.

We can all agree on abstract principles such as fairness. But what is fairness? Who gets to decide what it means? This is where conflicts and disagreements arise, as it is a highly context-dependent concept and varies across legal jurisdictions and cultures. There are more than 15 different fairness metrics, many of which cannot be satisfied simultaneously. Moreover, empirical evidence suggests that fairness preferences vary according to demographics, organizational cultures, and individual personalities of technology developers. These design choices have direct implications for the real world.

This is why we, **Dr. Christian Hugo Hoffmann, the Director of the AI Startup Center, and I**, propose the **AI Ethicist-in-Residence** function, an ethics practitioner who is in continuous collaboration with AI development teams in the organization to facilitate ethical and societal reflections throughout the lifecycle of AI systems.

Often, developers must face ethical trade-offs and prioritize competing values, which are not always "right" versus "wrong" dilemmas. One example is the alleged trade-off between fairness and accuracy, which deals with the following question of historical bias stemming from the historical training data: should AI systems represent the world as it is (present), as it was (past), or as we aspire it to be (future)? This will depend on the goal of the system, and an AI Ethicist-in-Residence can help navigate these discussions through stakeholder engagements, regulatory alignment, and questioning assumptions.

One might ask, isn't it enough to get an ethics committee's approval or a one-time session with a consultant? **The answer is no**. These compliance reviews happen too late in the development process to make meaningful changes to initial design choices, and ethical reflection should be integrated into all stages of development.

The "in-residence" model is not an untested strategy. It is a proven concept that facilitates an embedded-ethics approach and a fresh perspective. This role should enable ethical reflection throughout the entire lifecycle of AI development, actively participating with development teams to map, measure, and govern potential societal risks. This follows the model of clinical ethics, where ethicists participate in decision-making meetings, discussing risks and creating protocols. At the moment, AI ethicists and AI developers tend to operate in silos, limiting effective AI governance. This embedded approach fosters true interdisciplinary collaboration and shifts the placement of ethical considerations from an afterthought to an ongoing design process.

Arlette Danielle Román Almánzar
Human Rights Lawyer &
Postdoctoral Researcher
at the Chair of Work and Organizational Psychology in the Department of Management, Technology and Economics (D-MTEC) and associated researcher at the ETH AI Center.

So, you see the value, but maybe you are part of a small startup at ETH Zurich or at the AI Startup Center by Technopark Zürich that doesn't have the resources to fund such positions. **What can we do?**

This is why we should advocate for a university-sponsored AI Ethicist-in-Residence. As a pillar in the innovation ecosystem, universities play a pivotal role in setting the priorities on the innovation agenda. As hubs of innovation, universities can serve as enablers of responsible innovation by facilitating access to an AI Ethicist-in-Residence, democratizing ethics expertise for affiliated startups. The residents should act as collaborators with existing academic chairs who research AI ethics, and bridge academic research with potential industry partners. Moreover, universities could play a key role in certifying and training AI ethicists in order to further legitimize and standardize the profession.

Switzerland's innovation ecosystem has already begun to embrace ethics as a competitive advantage, incorporating it as part of the innovation challenge rather than a constraint. The Swiss AI initiative, a collaboration between EPFL, ETH Zurich, and the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre, exemplifies this with Apertus. Apertus is an open-source large language model developed under ethical principles, compliant with Swiss data protection and copyright laws, and the transparency obligations under the EU AI Act.

Competence of an AI Ethicist-in-Residence

As a novel and evolving role, the competence framework and skills of an AI Ethicist are still ambiguous. Nonetheless, what is not up for debate is that the occupation demands high interdisciplinarity, bridging the technical and social sciences. The primary responsibility of this role is to understand, analyze, and address the ethical and social implications of AI systems within the business context. We propose that the ideal candidate is an individual who is not home to the ivory tower, but driven by AI ethics in practice, which in turn puts emphasis on implementation and impact in lieu of concepts and thinking. Furthermore, we also recommend that this person is also aware of policy work, has experience in business management, and possesses excellent communication skills.

The key responsibilities include: developing guidelines adapted to the needs of different actors; participating in work meetings with team members; mapping potential unintended consequences of technology on stakeholders; engaging with the public to foster trust and social value; leading awareness campaigns related to AI literacy and AI ethics; involving stakeholders in co-designing processes; considering the environmental and social sustainability of technology; providing a social analysis of the context where the AI will be deployed; exploring societal readiness for the AI product; and connecting organizations and individuals active in the field of AI ethics.

Ultimately, the innovation ecosystem must ensure that AI is aligned with human values and the protection of human rights. As we enter the era of AI agents and agentic AI, highly autonomous systems that generate independent goals and collaborate with multiple AI agents, the role of AI Ethicist-in-Residence becomes more relevant than ever. We are very much looking forward to taking the next steps in 2026 to realize the AI Ethicist-in-Residence function at ETH Zurich in close collaboration with the AI Startup Center by Technopark Zürich.

Arlette Danielle Román Almánzar
ETH Zurich & ETH AI Center

Christian Hugo Hoffmann
Director AI Startup Center

AI Insights from the Bookshelf

SEPTEMBER

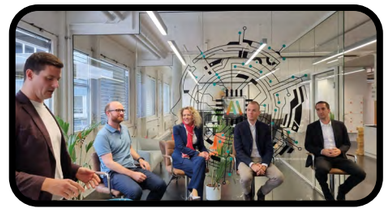
How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming the Economy

On 25 September 2025, the AI Startup Center celebrated the launch of its first book, *How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming the Economy*. Edited by Christian Hugo Hoffmann, Director of the AI Startup Center, and Sebastian Hersberger, CEO of the Center's first tenant Yuon Control, the book provides practical insights from AI practitioners and explores emerging AI ecosystems as well as successes, challenges, and opportunities across the AI value chain.

The evening opened with remarks by Christian Hugo Hoffmann, highlighting the collaborative effort behind the publication. Claudia Keller, Partner at Wenger Vieli and co-author, delivered the keynote, reflecting on Switzerland's position in the global AI landscape.

A lively panel discussion followed with Daniela Rittmeier (Capgemini), Daniel Naeff (ETH AI Center), Marcus Schwemmle (Die Mobiliar), and Florian Schütz (KI Park). Panelists shared key insights from their chapters and discussed why some AI ecosystems thrive more than others, highlighting Zurich's role as a leading innovation hub.

The event concluded with an Apéro, giving guests the chance to network, exchange ideas, and connect with the authors. Through the launch, guests saw firsthand how the AI Startup Center supports collaboration between startups, corporates, and research to drive AI forward in Switzerland.



NOVEMBER

Future Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

On 11 November 2025, the AI Startup Center hosted the launch of *Future Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, welcoming professionals, innovators, and thought leaders engaged in responsible AI. Authored by Christian Hugo Hoffmann, Director of the AI Startup Center, the book offers a practical and innovation-oriented approach to AI ethics, framing ethical responsibility as an integral part of business practice rather than a mere regulatory obligation. Drawing on real-world examples, it provides actionable frameworks for startups and practitioners aiming to balance innovation with moral responsibility.

Christian Hugo Hoffmann opened the evening with remarks introducing the book's vision of ethics as a core component of business and its significance for fostering responsible innovation. The panel discussion that followed featured Laura Keller (MQ Learning), Crystal Dubois (Bonnard Lawson), Julian Sutter (Intonate), and Christian Hugo Hoffmann himself. Panelists explored the book's central ideas, discussed strategies for implementing ethical AI in practice, and shared insights on promoting AI literacy and responsible innovation across startups and industry.

The evening concluded with an Apéro, giving attendees the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and engage with the author. Guests left with a clear sense of how the AI Startup Center fosters collaboration between research, startups, and industry, helping to translate ethical principles into practical AI solutions across Switzerland.

Leadership in Transition: A Conversation with the Foundation Board of Technopark Zürich

Lothar Thiele
Former President,
Technopark Zürich Foundation

Tanja Zimmermann
President
Technopark Zürich Foundation

Q You played a key role in initiating and driving the creation of the AI Startup Center. What convinced you at the time that it was the right time to establish a specialized center for AI startups? And why is the Technopark Zürich the right place for it?

Lothar Thiele When the Technopark Foundation ran a series of strategy workshops to shape our future direction, we looked at several potential focus areas such as AI, PropTech, Smart Energy, Cybersecurity, Advanced Manufacturing, and MedTech. We evaluated them against relevant criteria: a strong public profile, a solid ecosystem to build on, clear technological focus, current market relevance, and the potential to create real value for founders and partners.

Even before tools like ChatGPT made AI mainstream, it was obvious that AI wasn't just another trend. It was a transformative technology that would impact almost every industry. We saw a clear need to help transfer AI research into the market and build a dedicated platform that connects academic excellence with industrial application. That's what convinced us the time was right for the AI Startup Center.

Technopark Zürich is the perfect location for that. Zurich is already a global hotspot for AI, with ETH Zürich and other top research institutions, and a strong industrial base in data-driven technologies. On top of that, Technopark itself hosts over 260 companies and research groups. This creates a vibrant ecosystem where AI startups can collaborate closely with both researchers and industry players in areas like MedTech, Smart Energy, and Mobility.

In short, it's this mix of world-class science, entrepreneurial energy, and industrial relevance that makes Technopark Zürich the ideal place to drive the industrialization of AI.

Q With the AI Startup Center, Zurich has gained a new hub for applied AI innovation. What impact do you expect the center to have on the Zurich or even Swiss innovation ecosystem in the long term?

Lothar Thiele I expect the Technopark AI Startup Center to have a major, lasting impact on the entire Swiss ecosystem. We won't be the only player, but we'll help define how AI startups can be supported effectively—showing what kind of environment and resources they need to truly flourish and become global leaders. We want to be an influential part of the fast-growing ecosystem for core AI technology companies.

From the start, our goal wasn't just to push technology but to connect startups directly with the Swiss economy. That's why we also host established companies that are setting up innovation labs here from sectors like banking, media, manufacturing, and energy.

For these companies, it's about accelerating their innovation by being exposed to the most cutting-edge AI solutions. Being close to agile AI startups creates great opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Startups get access to real-world challenges, and corporates gain fresh ideas and speed in their innovation processes.

In the long run, this kind of cross-pollination between startups, research, and established industry will make Zurich and Switzerland an even stronger hub for applied AI innovation.

Q You are taking over the leadership of the Technopark Foundation at a time when the AI Startup Center is solidifying its structures and becoming increasingly visible to the public. How do you intend to strategically support its development?

Tanja Zimmermann As the new President of the Technopark Foundation, my priority is to ensure that the AI Startup Center continues to grow as a dynamic hub for innovation. Strategically, I will focus on three key areas: strengthening partnerships with leading research institutions and industry, fostering an entrepreneurial culture that encourages risk-taking and creativity, and ensuring access to the resources and networks that AI startups need to scale. By leveraging the Technopark's unique position at the intersection of science, business, and technology, we can accelerate the translation of cutting-edge AI research into impactful solutions for society and the economy.

Q The AI Startup Center connects science, startups, and industry in a new way. To what extent can the center contribute to Zurich being recognized internationally as a leading location for AI innovation? In this context, what could the AI Startup Center learn from Empa?

Tanja Zimmermann The AI Startup Center has the potential to contribute and help Zurich as a global leader in AI innovation by creating a vibrant ecosystem where scientific excellence meets entrepreneurial drive. Its unique approach - bringing together academia, startups, and established industry players - enables rapid knowledge transfer and the co-creation of market-ready solutions. From my experience at Empa, I know the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and translational research. The AI Startup Center can learn from Empa's model of fostering close ties between research and application, supporting startups with infrastructure, mentoring, and access to networks, and maintaining a strong focus on responsible innovation that benefits society as a whole.

Q AI is rapidly transforming the economy and society – a trend that has never been clearer and was recently celebrated and discussed in the AI Startup Center's first book, "How Artificial Intelligence is Changing the Economy."

How can the AI Startup Center contribute to ensuring that AI innovations are implemented responsibly and benefit society?

Lothar Thiele AI is transforming our economy and society at incredible speed, and with that comes a huge responsibility. How do we make sure this transformation is trustworthy and truly benefits people?

That's exactly where the AI Startup Center can make a difference. Traditionally, trust has been built through human relationships and direct interactions. We need to find new ways to establish that same level of confidence for AI, across investors, established companies, startups, policymakers, and, ultimately, the public. Trust cannot be just legislated or imposed through endless regulations. Instead, we're building an environment where responsibility is part of the innovation culture and not something added at the end. This will happen in expert workshops and mentoring sessions, but also informally during project discussions, networking events, even coffee breaks. The goal is to create a climate where peer influence and shared values naturally encourage solutions that deliver long-term societal value.

In that sense, the Technopark AI Startup Center wants to be both a model and a catalyst by showing that AI can be developed in a way that builds trust, strengthens competitiveness, and creates real value for society.

Tanja Zimmermann The responsible development and deployment of AI is a core value for the AI Startup Center. We actively promote ethical standards and transparency among our startups, encourage interdisciplinary dialogue - including with social scientists and ethicists - and support initiatives that address societal challenges. By providing guidance on regulatory frameworks, data privacy, and the societal implications of AI, we help ensure that innovations emerging from the center are not only technologically advanced but also trustworthy and aligned with public interests. Our goal is to foster AI solutions that create real value for society and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Q The AI Startup Center is still young but has already achieved important milestones. When you look back on the center in five years, how will you know that it has successfully fulfilled its mission?

Lothar Thiele When I look back in five years, I'll consider the Technopark AI Startup Center a success if it's become the natural home for Switzerland's most promising and respected AI startups, it is known to be the place where leading AI companies took their first steps.

For me, success isn't just about numbers, not only about how many startups or how much investment we've attracted, but about the quality and character of the companies that grow here. We want startups that are not only technologically excellent but that also reflect core Swiss values: trust, reliability, and responsibility.

If, in five years, we can point to a vibrant community of founders who combine cutting-edge AI innovation with these values, then we'll know we've truly fulfilled our mission.

Tanja Zimmermann Success for the AI Startup Center will be measured by the impact of its startups - both in terms of technological breakthroughs and their positive contributions to society and the economy. In five years, I would like to see a thriving community of AI ventures that have scaled nationally and maybe even internationally, strong collaborations with academia and industry, and a reputation for responsible innovation. The center's success will also be reflected in Zurich's standing as a magnet for AI talent and investment, and in the tangible benefits that AI solutions bring to people's lives.

Our Corporate Partners: Shared Vision and Commitment

Everllence

Caroline Gehlen
Head of Digital Product Delivery Industries
Everllence Switzerland

Patrik Meli
Managing Director
Everllence Switzerland

Q What convinced you to become a Corporate Partner of the AI Startup Center?

A We chose to become a Corporate Partner of the AI Startup Center because we want to actively support the local startup ecosystem – especially since the center is located right in our neighborhood. Innovation is part of our DNA at Everllence, and this partnership enables us to engage with emerging ideas, connect with new founders, and stay close to the latest developments in AI.

Q How does Everllence benefit from working with the AI Startup Center and its network?

A The partnership gives us easy access to a broad range of startups. We don't just learn about new products – we are inspired by how startups work, how they collaborate, and how they approach challenges. This exchange helps us broaden our perspectives and enrich our own innovation culture.

Q What unique insights has Everllence gained through its partnership with the AI Startup Center?

A We have gained a continuous awareness of the growing AI startup landscape around us. It's impressive to see, how quickly technologies are evolving.

Q The AI Startup Center connects startups, corporations, and research. What kind of impulses can this connection generate for the development of AI innovation in Zurich?

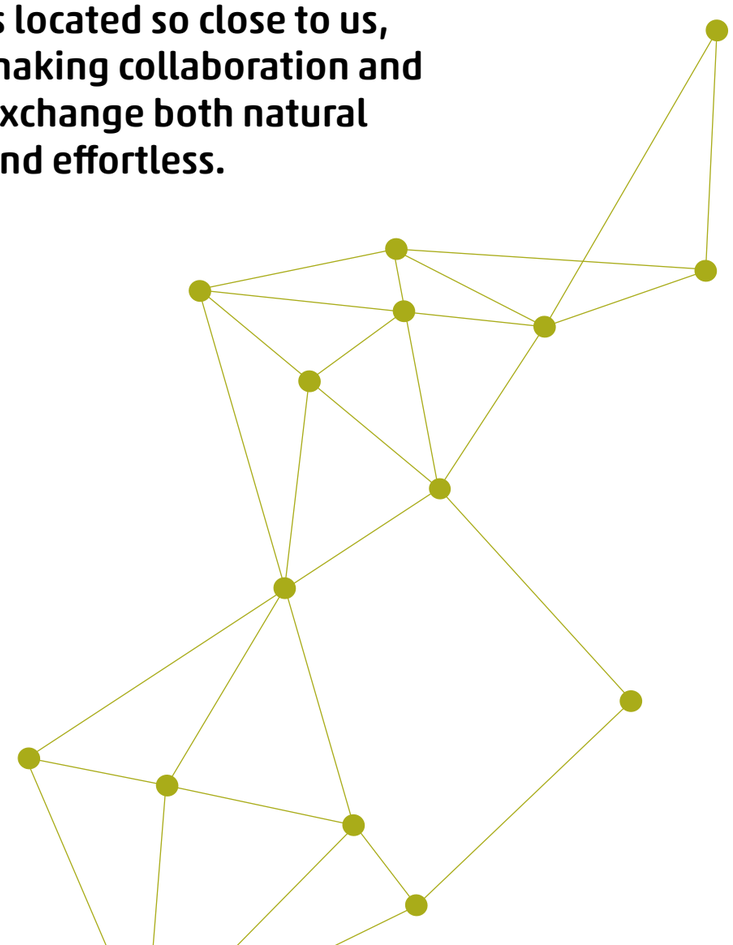
A A smart idea and a proof of concept are only the beginning. Real innovation happens when new solutions are tested in real-world conditions. The close connection between startups, industry expertise, and research accelerates this process: fresh ideas meet practical experience – turning innovation into value.

Q Looking ahead, what developments would you like to see for the AI Startup Center in the coming years?

A We'd welcome even more open formats that make it easy to connect informally – for example, morning sessions where startups and partners can meet over a coffee, exchange perspectives, and spark collaboration.

We are partners of the AI Startup Center because we rely on strong partners to continuously innovate, gain new inspiration, and further develop our technology solutions.

We particularly value that the AI Startup Center is located so close to us, making collaboration and exchange both natural and effortless.



Siemens

Alex Beck
Head Sales, Strategy & Business Excellence
Siemens Switzerland

Q What convinced you to become a Corporate Partner of the AI Startup Center?

A The decision was both strategic and visionary. At Siemens we combine the real and digital worlds like no other company can. Startups bring agility and fresh perspectives that perfectly complement our deep industry expertise and global reach.

The Greater Zurich Area has developed incredible tech density but it lacked a dedicated AI startup hub. The AI Startup Center fills this gap at the very time when agility and speed have become cornerstones of the intelligent age. We are not just looking for suppliers, we are seeking true partners who can support us in bringing AI to the real world, where it solves actual problems and improves lives.

Q How does Siemens benefit from working with the AI Startup Center and its network?

A This partnership accelerates our journey toward technology with purpose by developing solutions that not only create customer success but address real world and societal challenges from sustainability and urbanization to demographic change. For example, we leverage AI in buildings to reduce energy consumption by implementing predictive maintenance and utilizing real-time data to optimize operations.

Startups excel at rapid innovation, while we provide the industrial context and global scaling infrastructure. With ecosystems, we can collectively help customers become more competitive, more resilient, and more sustainable. The partnership also reinforces our growth mindset. We embrace experimentation, collaboration, and discovery, learning from entrepreneurs who think differently about industrial problems.

Q The AI Startup Center connects startups, corporations, and research. What kind of impulses can this connection generate for the development of AI innovation in Zurich?

A By collaborating and exploring new cases we would like to see the AI Startup Center become the go-to hub for industrial AI innovation in Europe. This means expanding the ecosystem to include more corporations, research institutions, and startups working on real-world applications.

This tripartite collaboration generates powerful network effects. Startups bring fresh thinking, corporations provide scaling infrastructure and market access, while research institutions contribute deep technical expertise. Together, we can tackle complex challenges that no single stakeholder could solve alone.

The result is AI that serves a purpose: helping industries navigate technological disruption while reducing their environmental footprint. This is the kind of innovation that Zurich can lead globally. Looking ahead, the future belongs to partnerships that create shared value.

We are partners of the AI Startup Center because we believe in the power of collaboration to bring AI to the real world. By combining our industrial expertise with startup agility, we can deliver breakthrough solutions that create both business value and positive impact for society.

We particularly value the fact that the AI Startup Center creates the ecosystem that was missing in Zurich – bringing together startups, corporations, and research to develop AI that solves real-world problems. This promotes the kind of collaboration that drives our company's vision forward.

QBIT Capital

Georges Khneysser
Founder &
Chief Vision Officer
QBIT Capital

The Technopark AI Startup Center represents the emergence of a new pillar in Switzerland's deep-tech and AI landscape. Located at the heart of Zurich's most dynamic innovation hub, the Center brings together entrepreneurial talent and industry partners in a way that accelerates the journey from scientific discovery to commercial impact. Its focused approach creates a high-quality environment where founders can build with clarity, speed, and access to the right network.

As an active member of this ecosystem, we view the Center as a strategic platform to identify and support early-stage Swiss startups developing breakthrough technologies with global potential. The combination of Technopark's infrastructure, its proximity to world-class academic and research institutions — including ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, ZHAW, Empa, Inspire, Eawag, CSEM, and PSI, to name a few — and the Center's collaborative model offers a strong setting for deep-tech venture building.

For us, the Technopark AI Startup Center is a catalyst for the next generation of Swiss companies and an emerging pillar of the country's long-term competitiveness in frontier technologies.

We are partners of the AI Startup Center because it builds a strong, long-term ecosystem for deep-tech and AI innovation in Switzerland.

We particularly value that the AI Startup Center focuses on substance, supporting founders with real technical depth and market traction.

Wenger Vieli

Claudia Keller
Partner &
Attorney at Law
Wenger Vieli

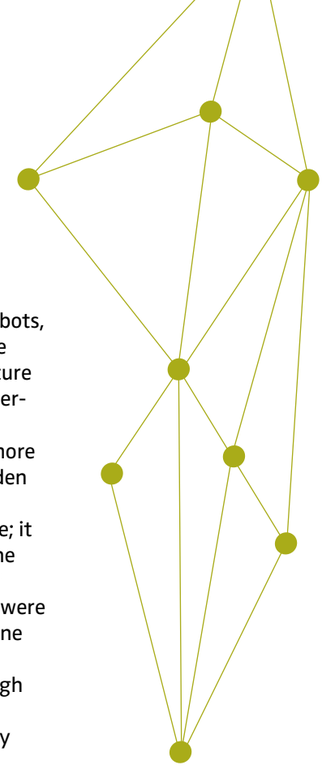
The Technopark AI Startup Center: A Strategic Touchpoint for Innovation

The Technopark AI Startup Center (AISC) offers a unique gateway into Switzerland's most dynamic hub for artificial intelligence. More than a workspace, it is a curated ecosystem where ambitious founders, researchers, and industry partners collaborate to turn cutting-edge ideas into scalable solutions. For Wenger Vieli, the AISC represents an invaluable vantage point on the technological and economic developments that are shaping tomorrow's business landscape. By being connected to AISC, we gain early insight into emerging AI trends, new applications, and rapidly evolving innovation models. Startups and corporates within the center explore fields such as applied machine learning, automation, robotics, data-driven decision-making and digital industrialisation. This proximity strengthens our strategic understanding of how AI is transforming value chains, operating models, and competitive dynamics across industries. AISC also serves as a platform for cross-disciplinary exchange. It brings together technology builders, researchers, investors, and established companies to discuss responsible AI, innovation culture, and the societal implications of intelligent systems. Engaging with this community reinforces our commitment to forward-thinking dialogue and positions us within an environment that thrives on experimentation and continuous learning. For us, the AI Startup Center is not only a place where innovation happens — it is a strategic touchpoint that keeps us connected to the pulse of Switzerland's digital future. It reflects our ambition to support and help shape a vibrant, competitive, and responsible AI ecosystem.

We are partners of the AI Startup Center because it connects us directly to Switzerland's leading AI innovators and gives us early insight into technologies and ideas that will shape the future economy.

We particularly value that the AI Startup Center brings together high-quality startups, researchers and industry partners in a focused, collaborative environment that drives meaningful, responsible innovation.

Laelaps AI: The Autonomous Guardians of Tomorrow



Sophia Belser
CEO & Co-Founder, Laelaps AI

Maria Stamatopoulou
Co-Founder, Laelaps AI

Rokas Bendikas
Co-Founder, Laelaps AI

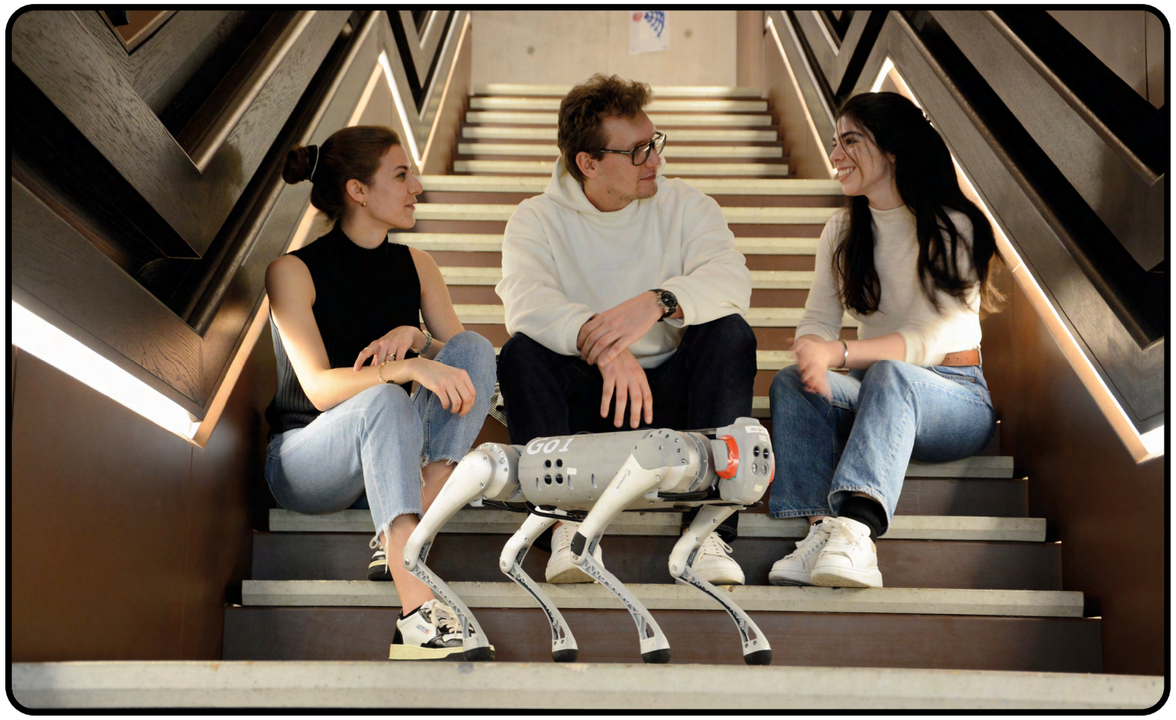
Laelaps AI is a young company with an ambitious mission: bringing fully autonomous security robotics into the real world at industrial scale. Recognized by Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in *Manufacturing & Industry*, Maria, Rokas and Sophia are developing robotic security agents capable of patrolling the perimeters of high-stakes, critical infrastructure sites. Their work builds on early support from the European Space Agency and Google, as well as a case study with Bosch that is accelerating the company's expansion into industrial and manufacturing security.

The story behind Laelaps AI begins in the UK, where the founding team first met during their PhD years and early research careers across Cambridge, Imperial, UCL, and other institutions. London was the company's first home, but the shift to Zürich came quickly - and with intention. Switzerland offers one of the world's strongest robotics and AI talent pools, along with the kind of calm, focused environment that deep-tech teams need to build transformational systems. As the team likes to joke, "a quick ski run is sometimes the best way to reset before solving hard autonomy problems."

At its core, Laelaps AI is building a command, control, coordination, and orchestration platform that turns mobile robots, cameras, and advanced sensors into a single trusted responder. With western infrastructure facing growing pressure and persistent under-guarding, the company's vision is to enable faster detection, smarter verification, and more effective response - while reducing the burden on human security teams.

Zürich didn't just provide a new home; it opened the door to a broader ecosystem. The AI Startup Center (AISC) offered the kind of interdisciplinary environment the founders were searching for: a place where robotics, machine learning and engineering come together naturally. Their connection to Sony AI through Justinas, whom the team first met at Start Summit in St. Gallen made AISC an especially fitting landing spot.

Today, Laelaps AI operates from Zürich as its primary AI research lab. Backed by leading investors including Speedinvest, Expeditions Fund, Florent Venture Partners, Fund F, a wonderful group of angels and the ESA Business Incubation Centre, the company continues to grow its world-class team to push the frontier of autonomous physical security.



Meet our Startup Members

AI Medical AG

Leadership Team
Christian Federau

AI-driven neuroradiology Software for high-quality reports

Akina Ltd

Leadership Team
Florian Haufe
Michelle Xiloyannis

AI-assisted physiotherapy and home exercise training

Arbrea Labs AG

Leadership Team
Endri Dibra
Sasha Schriber

AI-powered simulation for aesthetic surgery and medical experiences

CLIMADA Technologies AG

Leadership Team
Sebastian Glink
Simone Thompson
David N. Bresch

AI-powered climate-risk analytics for assets, portfolios, and regulatory reporting

Daiki GmbH

Leadership Team
Jona Boeddinghaus
Wolfgang Gross
Mark Coeckelbergh
Kevin Michael Gibney

AI Governance Platform Built for Compliance and Success

Egonym AG

Leadership Team
Lukas Vordermann
Vojtech Kabelka

AI-based Visual Identity Anonymization

Flink Robotics AG

Leadership Team
Moritz Geilinger
Simon Huber
Stelian Coros

Plug-and-play robots for material handling

Fore AI AG

Leadership Team
Asheem Panakkat
Simon Hecker
Jürgen Galler

Fully automated software testing, powered by AI

Incon.ai AG

Leadership Team
Fadri Furrer
Manuel Stich

High-precision AR software for the construction and manufacturing industries

Intonate GmbH

Leadership Team
Julian Sutter
Romano Schäppi
Livio Schläpfer

Medical documentation made smarter with AI

Irmos Technologies AG

Leadership Team
Panagiotis Martakis
Yves Reuland

AI-powered sensor platform for monitoring the structural health of buildings

Laelaps AI Ltd

Leadership Team
Sophia Belser
Maria Stamatopoulou
Rokas Bendikas

Robots, drones, and AI for automated critical-site protection

LLM Systems GmbH

Leadership Team
Philippe Wenk
Steffen Schmidt

AI-enabled app for clinical dictation and documentation

Manukai AG

Leadership Team
Pascal Weber
Daniel Wälchli
Nicolas Vetsch

AI assistant for CNC and machining workflows

Medicalholodeck AG

Leadership Team
Christof von Waldkirch
Dominique Sandoz
Stefan Bernsdorf

Platform for spatial medical imaging and education, leveraging AR/VR and AI

Miros Technology SA

Leadership Team
Fabio Zuliani
Neil Chennoufi
Jamie Paik

Designing and building intelligent furniture for flexible workspaces

Modulos AG

Leadership Team
Kevin Schawinski
Ce Zhang
Matthias Eppenberger

Enterprise AI governance and risk management platform

Natzka SA

Leadership Team
Matteo Emiliani
Andrea Masiero
Tobias Lieber

Decision intelligence platform that unifies data, delivers actionable insights and automates decisions via AI

Octotronic AG

Leadership Team
Alexej Ziegler
Christian Reich
Marvin Thiele

AI- and data-driven platform for unifying factory data and accelerating smart manufacturing

Senozon AG

Leadership Team
Tom Friderich
Thomas Haupt

Mobility modeling and location analytics for retail, real estate, and transport

Silex SAS

Leadership Team
Kyriaki Bongard
Zoé Berry
Laurent Aeschbach
Thomas Sèze

AI legal assistant delivering secure, real-time Swiss law insights

Terra Quantum AG

Leadership Team
Markus Pflitsch
Valerii Vinokur
Florian Neukart
Eike Marx

Quantum computing and secure communication solutions

Univerbal GmbH

Leadership Team
Philipp Hadjimina
Samuel Bissegger
Christopher Raffl

AI-powered language-learning app that lets you practice real conversations with a personalized AI tutor

UrbanDataLab AG

Leadership Team
Patrick M. Schirmer
Martin Fleischmann

Location-data platform using AI and spatial analytics for real estate, insurance, and urban planning

Valar Solutions GmbH

Leadership Team
Uroš Hudomalj
Alexander Marinšek

Blockchain-platform enabling peer-to-peer staking and decentralised node matching for the Algorand network

Visium SA

Leadership Team
Alen Arslanagic
Timon Zimmermann

AI & data consultancy that helps enterprises build, scale and deploy secure, production-grade AI solutions

Wantex AG

Leadership Team
Daniel Häberle
Patrick Lüthi

AI-powered supplier collaboration and sourcing platform for manufacturers

White Lens Foundation

Leadership Team
Patrick Marti
Dalith Steiger-Gablinger
André Studer
Carla A. Bünger-Ettl
Jan Frey

AI-based app to protect children from online sexual abuse by detecting grooming, sextortion and other digital threats

Yuon Control AG

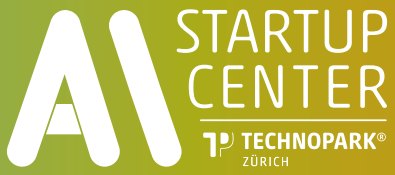
Leadership Team
Lorin Mühlebach
Josef Jenni
Sebastian Hersberger

Predictive AI-software for optimizing district heating networks and buildings to reduce energy consumption

Zupan AG

Leadership Team
Adam J. Wainwright

AI/ML-powered inventory-counting and stock-management software, replacing manual counting and clunky hardware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