



SSCC Business Forum

Startups

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Christoph Birkholz

Co-founder of Zurich Impact Hub

Dr. Christoph Birkholz (33) is an entrepreneur based in Zurich, Switzerland. He is co-founder and managing director of Impact Hub Zürich as well as Inyova.com. He has co-founded several spinoffs and initiatives in the Impact Hub network, such as Viaduct Ventures and the Global Impact Hub Fellowship. Christoph also leads Kickstart Accelerator, Europe's largest multi-corporate tech accelerator by digitalswitzerland and operated by Impact Hub Zürich. He has received a PhD in impact investing from University of St. Gallen, and teaches entrepreneurship, innovation and intrapreneurship at University of St. Gallen, Business School Lausanne and adschool Zürich. He is an alumnus of Witten/Herdecke University and INSEAD, as well as the Global Shapers Community of the World Economic Forum. He is a member of the Sandbox Network and one of the 100 Digital Shapers of Switzerland. Christoph serves on the board of Panter AG, an international technology and engineering company.

Caroline Gueissaz

Management consultant, Managing Director of Business Angels (BAS)

MSc in Industrial Engineering from the ETHZ. Caroline Gueissaz made the biggest part of her career at IBM in sales and management consulting both in Switzerland and internationally (London, Paris, Moscow). International relations manager at the Economic Development of the Canton of Neuchâtel for four years, she helped several companies settle in Switzerland. Since 2002, she has worked in M&A with VZ&A, now AVaccani & Partners, and managed an Advanced Management Programme for CRPM (management education) for 10 years. In 2007, she co-founded the Business Angels Switzerland (BAS) in the French part of Switzerland and leads it to be one of the main local players in the world of start-ups. She was asked to become the Director of BAS in July 2016.

She is a board member at SERV and at three other SME's, president of Genilem Neuchâtel and partner of AVaccani@Partners.





Niclas Molinder

CEO & Founder of Auddly

Music tech entrepreneur Niclas Molinder is a data flow and rights management innovator within the music industry. After 20 years of songwriting and producing for artists including Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga and Mary J Blige — as well as running his own music publishing company — the Swedish entrepreneur put aside his creative work to focus on establishing greater rights for music creators.

As part of this mission, Molinder founded song data hub Auddly in 2015. The platform soon brought on partners Max Martin, Björn Ulvaeus and Ash Pournouri and gained massive worldwide traction. Auddly is re-defining creator metadata collection by providing a unique data identifier that establishes a transparent and digitized information flow, in order to get everyone involved in a song paid and credited correctly. In 2016, Niclas Molinder, Max Martin and Björn Ulvaeus also founded the Music Rights Awareness Foundation, which works to increase knowledge of music rights worldwide. Niclas Molinder's vision is to create fairness and transparency for all of the world's music creators, regardless of their economic, geographic and cultural conditions.

Isabelle Ohnemus

CEO of EyeFitU

Isabelle Ohnemus worked for over ten years in investment banking as a broker in stocks and derivatives. In 2013 she decided to follow her interest in fashion founding EyeFitU, the software and platform that provides sizing recommendations for men and women across global brands.

Isabelle is a member of Creative Women's Circle Switzerland and she has been invited to speak about female entrepreneurship on various occasions, such as Ernst & Young “Exceptional Entrepreneurs”, “Tech Tour Growth Forum” and “The Executive MBA Course in Entrepreneurship” at the University of St. Gallen.

In 2015, EyeFitU was named as one of the “Favourite Fashion Apps 2015” from FashInvest and in July 2016, Isabelle was also nominated pitch winner at Netcomm Suisse “Ladies in e-commerce”.





Anders Thulin

Senior Digital Expert

Anders joined from Ericsson, where he was Senior Vice President and CIO. As former Senior Director of McKinsey & Company, he has a strong track record in implementing business excellence in blue chip companies and extensive experience in driving large transformation change programs. In addition to Anders' extensive functional expertise and deep multi-sector understanding, he is a digital expert. Anders holds a Master in Economics and Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics, including MBA studies at the Western University, Ivey Business School, Canada.

Moderator

Prof. Dr. Detlef Günther

Vice-President Research & Corporate Relations, ETH Zürich

Detlef Günther was born in Köthen (Germany) in 1963. He obtained his Diploma degree in Chemistry (1987) and Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry (1990) from the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg.

After carrying out postdoctoral studies in the Earth Science Departments of Memorial University Newfoundland (Canada) and ETH Zurich, he became Assistant professor at the Department of Chemistry at ETH Zurich. He was promoted to Associate Professor for Trace Element and Micro Analysis in 2003 and became Full Professor in 2008 in the Department of Chemistry and Applied Sciences. From 2010 – 2012 he was Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Applied Sciences.

His research focuses on instrument as well as method development for trace element analysis and isotope ratio determinations, which is documented in more than 370 publications. He is recipient of the Ruzicka Award (2002), the European Award for Plasma Spectrochemistry (2003), the Fresenius Award (2007), the Lester Strock Award (2007), and the Simon-Widmer Awards (2015). In 2013, he was awarded "Einstein Fellow" (Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany) and received the "Thousand Talent Fellowship" (Wuhan University, China). In 2014, he was elected as member of the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina.

Since 2015, he serves as Vice President of Research and Corporate Relations at ETH Zurich, which includes the research program with the EU, the internal office for research, technology transfer and industry relations.

He is also the Vice President of the Foundation Board of Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich which aims to be a source of inspiration, with researchers and developers, experts and skilled personnel developing ideas and solutions for the world of the future.

