



Australian start-up Control Bionics wins Pitch@Palace Commonwealth

Runners up were Canadian Orpyx Technologies, Nigerian DIYlaw and Slimdown 360 from Trinidad and Tobago

Slimdown 360 also won the Pitch@Palace Commonwealth People's Choice Award

LONDON, 17 April 2018: Last night, The Duke of York announced Control Bionics, an Entrepreneur from Australia, as the winner of the inaugural [Pitch@Palace Commonwealth](#). The event took place as part of the Commonwealth Summit and saw Entrepreneurs from across the Commonwealth come together at St. James's Palace.

Control Bionics has created the 'NeuroNode', the world's first wearable, wireless, clinical-grade bionic system for controlling smartphones, computers and robotics with the electrical signals inside a muscle - even if it is disabled. It beta-tested its technology with Professor Stephen Hawking and has already delivered life-changing neuro electrically-controlled communication to many disabled people. Control Bionics competed against 40 other Entrepreneurs from Commonwealth countries, who Pitched their business ideas to an Audience convened by The Duke of York, comprising Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Ministers, CEOs, Influencers, Angels, Mentors, potential Investors and Business Partners.

Peter Ford, founder of Control Bionics and winner of Pitch@Palace Commonwealth 1.0, said: "This has been an amazing experience and The Duke of York has constructed an extraordinary machine for Entrepreneurs like us: whether you're a start-up or a scale up, the competition is guaranteed to help you enormously. We've already picked up some incredible contacts from other countries; from Malaysia, from Pakistan, the Middle East and the UK. We're just working out how to properly reap the benefits of the amazing Pitch@Palace network, but we know this is going to help us for decades!"

Speaking at Pitch@Palace Commonwealth, The Duke of York said: "It is a great honour to be able to bring Entrepreneurs from across the Commonwealth to London for the Commonwealth Summit. It has always been at the centre of my work in Entrepreneurship to build Communities who by collaborating can support building Prosperity and Creating Jobs for our Young People. You cannot underestimate serendipity, and connections from this evening's event will make a huge difference."

In line with the Commonwealth Summit's theme, 'Towards A Common Future', the theme of Pitch@Palace Commonwealth was 'Human Technology – Benefits for Humanity', addressing the need to build a healthier and more sustainable future for mankind. Alongside Control Bionics, the Audience at St. James's Palace voted Canadian business Orpyx Technologies, Nigerian company DIYlaw and

Slimdown360 from Trinidad and Tobago as runners up. Slimdown360 was also named winner in the public vote, The Pitch@Palace Commonwealth People's Choice Award.

As part of the Pitch@Palace Global network, Pitch@Palace Commonwealth builds connectivity between Commonwealth countries and other key markets. Pitch@Palace was founded by HRH The Duke of York in 2014 as a platform to amplify and accelerate the work of Entrepreneurs globally.

To find out more about Pitch@Palace visit: pitchatpalace.com

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Notes to Editors

About Pitch@Palace

Pitch@Palace is a programme that gives entrepreneurs the chance to get their innovative tech business ideas in front of an audience of prestigious influencers who have the ability to catapult them to the next level, including CEOs, Business Angels, Investors, Venture Capitalists, Mentors and potential business partners.

Pitch@Palace Global forms part of Pitch@Palace and aims to help tech Entrepreneurs from a range of overseas markets build access and connectivity around the world. It creates a global platform for Entrepreneurs to access Mentors and Advisers, distribution systems and supply chains, connections and investment.

Since the initiative was started in 2014, Pitch@Palace has helped start-up businesses to create 2,151 new jobs and generate over £552 million of new economic activity. The competition is estimated to have made more than 6,580 connections between companies and influencers and has hosted 73 events worldwide, with 523 startups having Pitched their ideas at Pitch@Palace events. One of the programme's most notable stories is technology business Magic Pony, which met its investors at a Pitch@Palace event. It sold to Twitter in June 2016 for a reported \$150 million.