



Blockchain Entrepreneur VChain Technology wins Pitch@Palace 9.0

AI and cyber security Entrepreneurs Kiroku and Trust Elevate are named as runners up

AI Entrepreneur Waffle wins the Pitch@Palace 9.0 People's Choice Award

LONDON, 26 April 2018: Pitch@Palace, the programme established by HRH The Duke of York to support Entrepreneurs with the expansion and acceleration of their business ideas, last night announced VChain Technology as the winner of Pitch@Palace 9.0 at St James's Palace.

VChain Technology is an award winning blockchain capability for aviation security, which validates passenger identity through its proprietary triple patented technology. Co-founder Irra Ariella Khi competed against 41 other Entrepreneurs from across the UK, who Pitched their business ideas to an influential Audience convened by The Duke of York, comprising leaders in the business and technology communities, including CEOs, Influencers, Angels, Mentors, potential Investors and Business Partners.

The theme for Pitch@Palace 9.0 was 'Data, Intelligence and the Future of Security', prompted by the explosion of Big Data and the opportunities and risks of new technologies including artificial intelligence, machine learning, cyber security, blockchain and cryptocurrencies.

Speaking at Pitch@Palace 9.0, The Duke of York said: 'Pitch@Palace 9.0's theme of Data, Intelligence and The Future of Security could not be more fascinating. We live in a world where the explosion of Big Data and its handling is a subject of much discussion. It presents an enormous opportunity whilst creating an enormous threat – something our Entrepreneurs are inspired by!'

Irra Ariella Khi, CEO and co-founder of VChain Technology, and winner of Pitch@Palace 9.0, said: "If I had to describe Pitch@Palace in three words, they'd be: aspirational, meaningful, and change-making. We have already made some wonderful connections this evening. We have met people tonight whose work has been so instrumental in the development of our business ideas, but who we have never actually been able to access before to have a one-on-one conversation with. People in the audience here are so open, so proactive and are genuinely looking to help you. Pitch@Palace has already proved to be a hugely transformative process for us. Watch this space!"

Alongside VChain Technology, AI company Kiroku and cyber security business Trust Elevate were named runners up. Waffle, a personal assistant that helps its customers find good restaurant offers, was named winner of the public vote, the Pitch@Palace 9.0 People's Choice Award.

Applications open for Pitch@Palace 10.0

Applications are now open for Pitch@Palace 10.0, which will take place at Buckingham Palace in November. The competition has a broad technology theme, and is seeking Entrepreneurs that have identified opportunities across a wide range of sectors. For further details and to apply, please visit: pitchatpalace.com/apply

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

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Guto Bebb MP, Minister for Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence said: “No matter what their size, we are always on the lookout for the best and brightest British suppliers for our Armed Forces - and Pitch@Palace is a fantastic initiative that offers entrepreneurs the chance to meet the MOD face-to-face and show us what they have to offer. Today’s event has been packed with really exciting and innovative ideas which could one day help our serving men and women protect the nation from the frontline.”

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 influencers who have the ability to catapult them to the next level, including CEOs, Business Angels, Investors, Venture Capitalists, Mentors and potential business partners.

Since the initiative was launched in 2014, Pitch@Palace has helped more than 560 Entrepreneurs to create 2,151 new jobs and generate over £552 million of new economic activity. It is estimated to have facilitated more than 6,780 connections between Entrepreneurs and influencers and has hosted 73 events worldwide. One of the programme’s most notable success 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.