

Pressemitteilung

Institute-Led Jury Recognizes Innovative Startups Driving European Market Expansion at KIST 2025

Saarbrücken, October 10, 2025 – The second Pitching Competition organised by the Korean Institute of Science and Technology Saarbrücken, which was held on September 19, 2025, at KIST Europe, concluded with great success, spotlighting innovative South Korean deep-tech startups aspiring to expand into the European market. Organized as part of the IBK Changgong Program, the event offered a platform for six promising startups to present their groundbreaking solutions to a distinguished jury of the August Wilhelm Scheer Institute and a wider audience, while exploring strategic opportunities in Europe.

A Gateway for South Korean Startups to Enter the European Market

The goal of the KIST Pitching Competition is to assess the potential of South Korean startups looking to expand into the European market. The competition's goals included evaluating the scalability of each startup's business model, identifying opportunities for strategic partnerships, and building networks with key European players. By connecting startups with industry leaders and experts, the event served as a springboard for these companies to tailor their strategies for European market entry.

The event was organized by **KIST Europe Forschungsgesellschaft mbH**, in collaboration with the **Bridge Center**, and was led by **Dr. Jeongho Seo**, Project Leader at KIST.

Jury and Evaluation Criteria: Expertise for the European Market

A significant component of the competition was the involvement of the **August-Wilhelm Scheer Institute (AWSI)**, which formed and led the expert jury committee. The jury evaluated the startups based on several criteria, including their business models, growth potential, product-market fit, and the quality of their presentations. Additionally, the jury members provided strategic guidance and valuable industry contacts, supporting the startups as they work to adapt their business models for European markets.

The jury consisted of:

- **Tobias Greff** – Head of Smart Services Labs
- **Sarthak Jain** – Expert in Technology Transfer and Innovation

- **Jana-Katharina Burnikel** – Startup Consultant and Expert in Business Strategies

Six Innovative Startups Competed for the Pitch Award

The competition featured six South Korean deep-tech startups, each presenting cutting-edge technologies with potential applications in various industries. The participating startups and their innovations were:

1. [**10kM.ai**](#) – AI-powered video platform that enables rapid, brand-consistent video creation, editing, and distribution.
2. [**Copper Innovation Technologies \(CIT\)**](#) – Develops high-frequency materials such as flexible copper-clad laminates, transparent antennas, and semiconductor glass substrates for telecommunications, automotive, and IoT applications.
3. [**Dynamic Industry**](#) – Chemical-free solution for recycling end-of-life solar panels, recovering and reselling metals and glass.
4. [**Intellectus**](#) – Real-time edge computing and data-management solutions for mobility, smart factories, robotics, and environmental monitoring.
5. [**Mobilwithus**](#) – Secure automotive ECU software and cryptographic solutions for OEMs and Tier-1 suppliers.
6. [**ModigenceVision**](#) – AI-powered, high-precision 3D vision and imaging cameras for robotics, smart manufacturing, logistics, and smart cities.

Winners of the 2025 KIST Pitching Competition

The winners of the 2025 KIST Pitching Competition were chosen based on the innovation and market potential of their solutions, especially for the European market, as the robustness of their business models, the individual pitch presentations as well as the presentors' ability to handle the questions of the jury. The top three winners were awarded, the winner received € 600 pitch voucher, which will be used for receiving feedback on their pitches and for consulting services to adapt their business models for the European market.

The winners were:

1. **Dynamic Industry** – First Place
2. **Intellectus** – Second Place
3. **Copper Innovation Technologies** – Third Place

Networking and Future Prospects

Beyond the formal pitch presentations, the event provided invaluable networking opportunities. All participating startups had the chance to engage directly with the jury members and other industry stakeholders, facilitating connections that could lead to long-term partnerships. The networking aspect was seen as a key strength of the event, offering startups direct access to influential figures in European industries.

This was the second KIST Pitching Competition, following a successful debut in 2024. Both **KIST** and **AWSI** plan to continue their collaboration in the future, aiming to further support South Korean startups seeking to enter European markets and to strengthen cross-regional exchanges between innovative technology companies. In another pitching competition on October 30th 2025, 8 innovative companies and startups will again compete in front of the AWSI jury. The companies selected for this pilot event initiated by the KIST Innovation Family Companies initiative will present their business models which range from Life Science and MedTech to FarmTech and ConsumerTech.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening Collaboration and Market Access

With the successful conclusion of the 2025 competition, both KIST and AWSI are committed to deepening their collaboration, enhancing the access of South Korean startups to European markets, and promoting knowledge exchange between the two regions. The event's success underlines the importance of fostering such platforms that bridge the gap between innovative companies and the European business ecosystem.

About the Founders

The founders and representatives of the competing startups are as follows:

- **Copper Innovation Technologies:** Jeong Seung (CEO)
- **Intellectus:** Ryan Ko (COO)
- **Dynamic Industry:** Seong Hoon Shin (CIO)

The KIST Pitching Competition 2025 marks a significant milestone in fostering international connections, and both KIST and AWSI are excited to continue supporting the growth and expansion of these promising startups.

Pressekontakt:

Katherina von Strünck

August-Wilhelm Scheer Institut

Katherina.vonstruenck@aws-institut.de



KIST Europe
Korea Institute of
Science and Technology