

**News:**

## ETH Zurich to host annual pan-European awards for university entrepreneurs

### GE joins INSEAD, Microsoft, BP, ESADE in ACES Academic Enterprise Awards

**ZURICH – 15 July, 2010** – ETH Zurich, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, will host the next annual ACES Academic Enterprise Awards, a pan-European programme to recognise excellence among university spin-out companies and involving several technology multinationals.

The awards are the top pan-European contest for academic entrepreneurs. They are judged by the Science|Business Innovation Board, a blue-ribbon panel of innovation leaders co-founded by the Science|Business media network and business schools INSEAD and ESADE in association with Microsoft and BP. GE is also joining the awards judging and sponsorship this year.

The awards, to take place in early 2011, will attract nominations from all countries and industrial sectors of Europe – and recognise university entrepreneurs who have excelled at bridging the gap between lab and market by starting their own technology companies, or in other ways working with industry and investors. Judges for the awards include GE International President & CEO Nani Beccalli, ETH Zurich President Ralph Eichler, INSEAD Dean J. Frank Brown, Microsoft International President Jean-Philippe Courtois, BP Group Research and Technology Head David Eyton, and ESADE Dean Alfons Sauquet.

ETH Zurich, one of the world's leading technology universities, will host the 2011 awards and a related conference on academic enterprise.

Nominations for the awards may be submitted by any qualifying entrepreneur who is using technology developed at European universities or public research institutes. The awards cover the fields of life sciences, information and communications technologies, chemicals, materials, energy and environment. ACES nominations open July 15, and close Oct. 15.

Past winners of the ACES awards include Gostai, a French robotics-software spinout from ENSTA-ParisTech, artificial-tissue company Bioceramic Therapeutics from Imperial College London, and light-weight materials company Lamera from Chalmers University of Technology. The purpose of the awards is to promote broader recognition of excellence in innovation on European university campuses.

#### About ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich has come to symbolise excellent education, groundbreaking basic research and applied results that are beneficial for society as a whole. Founded in 1855, it today offers researchers an inspiring environment and students a comprehensive education as one of the world's leading universities for technology and natural sciences. ETH Zurich has more than 15,000 students from approximately 80 countries, 3,400 of whom are doctoral candidates. Around 400 professors teach and conduct research in the areas of engineering, architecture, mathematics, natural sciences, system-oriented sciences, and management and social sciences. ETH Zurich regularly appears at the top of international rankings as one of the best universities in the world. Transferring its knowledge to the private sector and society at large is one of ETH Zurich's primary concerns. It has succeeded in this, as borne out by the 80 new patents awarded each

year and the 195 spin-off companies that were created out of the institute between 1996 and 2009.

### **About Science|Business**

Science|Business is a London- and Brussels-based media company focused on research and innovation in Europe. It works with a network of leading research universities including ETH-Zurich, technology companies and policy makers to promote innovation. Founded by former managing editors of the Wall Street Journal Europe and Nature magazine, the company also operates the Science|Business Innovation Board AISBL, a not-for-profit association co-founded with business schools INSEAD and ESADE in association with Microsoft and BP, to promote innovation in Europe. More information about Science|Business and the Innovation Board is at [www.sciencebusiness.net](http://www.sciencebusiness.net). For ACES nominations, visit [www.sciencebusiness.net/aces](http://www.sciencebusiness.net/aces).

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