

Press release

5 August 2011

Telefónica Germany sponsors founders competition enable2start and offers venture capital for winners

- Five O₂ start-up packages worth up to 5,000 euros in addition to the prize money
- Winners will be able to present their business plan as part of Telefónica's Venture Capital programme
- CEO René Schuster is member of the jury

MUNICH. A kick-start for good ideas: Telefónica Germany is once again sponsoring the enable2start start-up initiative this year – but with a new twist. Not only will the winners have the chance to pitch their projects to Telefónica's worldwide Venture Capital programme, but all five will also receive a start-up package worth up to 5,000 euros that includes the O₂ on Business tariff and a solution from the O₂ portfolio that matches their business idea.

enable2start is organised by Financial Times Deutschland (FTD) and the Center for Innovation and Business Creation at the Technical University Munich (UnternehmerTUM). The competition is considered to be Europe's largest start-up competition with the most prize money. On the jury again this year will be René Schuster, CEO of Telefónica Germany, whose O₂ Business division is a proven partner to people starting up in business. The five teams with the most convincing business concepts will each receive start-up financing of 50,000 euros from enable2start. After that, they can apply for considerably greater venture capital financing from Telefónica S.A.

"O₂ Business has the perfect offers for the self-employed, freelancers and young businesses. We have supported enable2start for years now, because people setting up in business need strong partners, but in 2011 we'll be offering much more", says Johannes Pruchnow, Director of Business for

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Telefónica Germany. "Telefónica facilitates venture capital financing and awards attractive founders packages to the start-ups. enable2start is the perfect platform for young entrepreneurs building the companies of the future based on their creative business ideas."

The application phase kicked off on 2 August and runs until 9 October 2011. Interviews with 40 to 50 selected company founders will be held at the beginning of December in Hamburg, Berlin, Munich and Düsseldorf. The jury will decide on the victors on 1 and 2 February 2012. Besides the attractive prizes, entrants can also look forward to reporting by the FTD over many months in its printed editions and on its website.

All entrepreneurs who are about to found a company or who have founded a company in the last two years are eligible to take part. Their business plan, the originality of their ideas, the team's CVs and their company's growth orientation will be among the decisive factors for the selection of candidates. For the full terms and conditions for participation see <http://www.enable2start.de>.

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