



A record-breaking number of 2,000 startups apply to the last open call of IMPACT Growth

- The IMPACT Growth accelerator will select 14 startups from amongst the 2,000 participants
- The programme, which offers 3.6 million euros equity-free funding, has received entries from 60 countries. Among IMPACT Growth's four verticals, Smart Content and Smart Cities accounted for 71% of the applications
- These selected startups will join the 14 companies that were selected in the first open call and are currently being accelerated
- IMPACT Connected Car, IMPACT Accelerator's other programme, is now calling for startups and SMEs that offer to disrupt the emerging market of connected vehicles

Barcelona, 13 December 2017.- [IMPACT Growth](#), the startup acceleration programme backed by leading accelerators, venture capital entities and global brands, wrapped up its second and last call for applicants with the participation of over 2,000 startups. The call, launched in September in DLD Tel Aviv, and promoted in top global events such as MWC Americas, Web Summit, Slush, South Summit and MWC Shanghai, has received applications from 60 countries, in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe. From amongst the participants IMPACT Growth will select a total of 14 startups to initiate an acceleration process headed by [ISDI](#) and [Accelerace](#). These selected startups will join the 14 companies that were selected in the first open call and are currently being accelerated

Spain, Italy, Poland and Denmark led the number of applications in this second call. Among IMPACT Growth's four verticals, of special note was the participation of startups in the Smart Content (41% of applications) and Smart Cities (30% of applications) sectors. Smart Agrifood and Smart Manufacturing are the other two verticals, accounting for 13% and 11% of the applications, respectively. The global brands [Ferrovial Servicios](#), [MADE](#), [Danone](#) and [DOCOMO Digital](#) will support the startups selected in their verticals.

IMPACT Growth is an initiative funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, with a total of €3.6 million for its initial phase. The project, led by [FundingBox](#), features two calls for applicants for the selection of a total of 28 startups, granting each with 100,000 euros equity-free for their initial funding and the best four with an additional funding of 150,000 euros equity-free. The top startups funded by IMPACT Growth will be able to receive private investment of up to 1.5 million euros from the European venture capitals [Kibo Ventures](#) and [Invesdor](#).

The startups will participate in a training programme featuring international experts and entrepreneurs in Madrid, Copenhagen and Barcelona, and access an international network



of over 100 renowned mentors, founders and investors. The training programme will go hand in hand with participation in the different international events organised by [4YFN](#), the business platform for the growing community of technology startups at the global level supported by [Mobile World Capital Barcelona](#) (MWCcapital).

The upcoming edition of 4YFN at Mobile World Congress Barcelona (26-28 February 2018) will feature a selection of the startups accelerated by IMPACT Growth, introducing them to the local ecosystem and facilitating their access to investors, press and large corporations.

The startups will also benefit from support by the [FIWARE](#) Foundation for the integration of this technology into the development of their projects. FIWARE is an innovative, open source, Cloud-based technology that makes possible the creation and deployment of global services and applications in the new digital age.

IMPACT Growth is one of the two programmes of [IMPACT Accelerator](#), which invested over €14 million in 77 startups from 2014 to 2017 and has recently been named among the global top ten in Gust's Global Accelerator Report after evaluating 579 programs from five continents. [IMPACT Connected Car](#), IMPACT Accelerator's other currently-running programme, is now calling for startups and SMEs that offer to disrupt the emerging market of connected vehicles. In 2018, IMPACT Accelerator plans to launch a new acceleration programme focused on startups disrupting the robotics market.

Jury Day to announce the winners

The winners of this selection process will be announced after a Jury Day slated for March 1st at the ISDI Digital Acceleration Center in Madrid. A shortlist of selected startups will pitch in front of panel of experts that will judge these companies taking into account account criteria such as scalability and international growth.



The 14 selected startups of IMPACT Growth's first open call



About IMPACT

IMPACT is an accelerator formed by a consortium of 11 entities based in Spain, Poland, Denmark, Italy and Mexico, among other countries.

[ISDI](#) is an institution created by Internet industry professionals in 2009. ISDI contributes to digital transformation and generates a competitive ecosystem by training digital professionals, promoting digital talent, disseminating knowledge, supporting entrepreneurs and transforming companies.

With headquarters in Madrid, Barcelona, Mexico D.F. and Silicon Valley, ISDI is the first “digital native” business school in Spain and has more and more online, mixed and blended executive courses. ISDI also provides personalized training in digital disciplines in Spain and other countries to companies including Telefónica, Correos, Gas Natural, Mapfre, Bankia, BBVA, El Corte Inglés, Vodafone, Prisa, Godó, Coca Cola, Nestle, and Danone.

In addition, through the ISDI Foundation, the school forms and advises NGOs in their development in the digital field, and supports and promotes initiatives linked to digital skills and programming concepts for children.

ISDI participates in initiatives to reduce unemployment through training with various institutional bodies and participates with the European Commission in designing the new framework of professions for the Digital Agenda 2020.

[FundingBox](#) is the go-to platform for digital disruptors to join tech communities and win public funding. FundingBox is a community where entrepreneurs can meet, interact and collaborate to win public funding. FundingBox provides “scale ups” (startups and tech SMEs) with simple and personalized access to both public funding and interactive tech communities. Awarding bodies use FundingBox to distribute their funding and build communities that can grow and become integral parts of their ecosystems. FundingBox has over 25 years’ experience in public funding, having won over €1 billion for its customers in this period. The company is composed of more than 30 professionals, with hubs in Spain, Denmark and Poland.

The [FIWARE Foundation](#) is the legal independent body providing shared resources to help achieving the FIWARE mission that is to develop an open sustainable ecosystem around public, royalty-free and implementation-driven software platform standards that will ease the creation of Smart Solutions in multiple sectors.

The FIWARE Foundation accomplishes its goal by promoting, augmenting, protecting, and validating the FIWARE technologies as well as the activities of the FIWARE community, empowering its members including end users, developers and rest of stakeholders in the entire ecosystem. The FIWARE Foundation is open: anybody can join contributing to a transparent governance of FIWARE activities and rising through the ranks, based on merit.

[Mobile World Capital Barcelona](#) is an initiative driving the mobile and digital transformation of society while helping improve people’s lives globally. With support of the public and private sector throughout Barcelona, Catalonia and Spain, MWCcapital focuses on three areas: the empowerment of new generations, professionals and citizens in the use of digital technologies; the digital transformation of industries; and the acceleration of innovation through digital-based entrepreneurship. Collectively, our programmes are positively transforming Education, Industry and the Economy. MWCcapital hosts the Mobile World Congress and delivers 4 Years From Now [4YFN], a business platform for the startup community.

[Accelerace](#) is one of the world’s Top 10 seed accelerators. Since 2008, Accelerace has spotted, trained and invested in more than 300 promising Danish and international startups and scale-ups. 88% of the companies are still in business. As a part of the national Scale-Up Denmark initiative, Accelerace scales startups in the field of technology, foodtech, cleantech, life science and welfaretech with the help from experienced serial entrepreneurs, camps and network. Accelerace has up until today invested more than 260 mio. DKK in promising startups that have completed the Accelerace program and has engaged partners e.g. Maersk, Novo Nordisk Fonden, Bang & Olufsen and SE to deliver access to world-class industry expertise.



With over \$120M assets under management, [Kibo Ventures](#) is one of the most active Spanish Venture Capital firms in the digital space. Having made over 40 investments, Kibo Ventures invests in companies with high growth potential and helps Spanish entrepreneurs with global ambition, a technology differentiation and scalable business models or in companies expanding into Spanish speaking countries where they can leverage on Kibo Ventures' network. Kibo Ventures has invested in prominent companies of the Spanish tech ecosystem such as Carto, Flywire, Job and Talent, Logtrust, Jetlore, Blueliv, iContainers, Worldsensing or Promociones Farma. Kibo Ventures has a very international profile, with companies based in Spain, US, UK, Germany, Portugal and Latam and 40+ US/European co-investors.

[Invesdor](#) A financial technology (fintech) company founded in Finland in 2012, Invesdor operates an online investment platform that connects ambitious European growth companies with investors worldwide. Invesdor has helped raise more than 40 million euros for more than a hundred businesses. Invesdor's clients include private and publicly traded companies from Finland, the UK, Sweden, Norway and Denmark as well as investors from more than 70 countries. Invesdor has offices in London and Helsinki. Invesdor is the Nordic market leader in equity crowdfunding platforms measured in invested capital in 2015 and 2016

[Ferroviai Servicios, SA](#), is the company of Ferroviai Group, which within the Services Division, operates in Spain, Portugal and other countries in the areas of comprehensive maintenance of facilities, industrial facility and energy management.

Ferroviai is currently managing more than 2700 buildings, offering the following services: comprehensive maintenance of buildings and lighting installations (electric, compressed air, heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration, fire protection...), facilities management, industrial installations' maintenance, energy management, energy services for buildings and street lighting, installations' implementation and audits, road and infrastructure maintenance and cleaning.

Ferroviai Servicios is the entity leading the Smart Infrastructure & Cities Vertical. The corporate participates in the dissemination of the Open call, startup selection proposing the specific challenges to be addressed, supporting the selected projects in its vertical by allocating them a Corporate Mentor which can analyze their potential from the Corporate point of view. Ferroviai Servicios also provides support to the projects funded, once finalized the Acceleration Programme, by offering them commercial partnerships in case potential success is detected.

[DOCOMO Digital](#) is the unit for the global digital ecosystem of NTT DOCOMO. The company has over 15 years of expertise in mobile content, distributed through its proprietary platforms managing customer acquisition and mobile payments, thanks to the connection to over 200 mobile network operators in the world.

DOCOMO Digital is also active in managing Open Innovation through its corporate acceleration program, b-ventures, aimed at accelerating the growth of tech start-ups in the mobile content and mobile payments sectors, taking full advantage of its consolidated worldwide infrastructure and well-established international business relationships.

DOCOMO Digital is a global company based in London and present on 6 continents through nearly 1,000 people of 50 nationalities in 35 offices.

[DANONE](#) is a world leader in dairy products, bottled water and other foods for children and clinics, with more than 900 million consumers. Isaac Carasso created the world's first factory of industrial yogurt for general consumption in Barcelona in 1919. The group is now present in 140 countries. In Spain, Danone has production facilities in Madrid, Barcelona, Asturias and Valencia, which supply 40,000 shops and more than 11 million homes daily.

Danone was born out of innovation and being a fundamental pillar at all levels is woven into the DNA of the company. Therefore, it is very important for Danone to support initiatives such as IMPACT GROWTH that support the talent of young startups and that contribute to the promotion of research and development of the whole society.



[MADE](#) is an independent association led by industry executives that aims to facilitate the development of innovative world-class manufacturing solutions to and for primarily European industry, enabling Denmark to compete globally and create growth in industry jobs. MADE will achieve its goals through the development of strategic partnerships between research institutes and industry, to deliver state of the art: manufacturing technology, leadership, operating models and education.

MADE consists of 113 large and small Danish manufacturing companies (incl. Grundfos, Danfoss, LEGO Group, Siemens Wind Power and over 80 SME's), five universities (University of Southern Denmark, Technical University of Denmark, Aalborg University, Copenhagen Business School, Aarhus University), three technological service institutes and is supported by private foundations and associations.

MADE has three focus areas; applied industrial research, innovation and education. At the heart of MADE the applied research platform focuses on improving the competitiveness of MADE's industrial partners. 44 Ph.D. and Postdoc projects have been initiated . MADE was started on a 25 M EURO budget (for 2014-2018) where over 50 % of the financing is provided by the industrial partners. MADE has just been granted a new program MADE DIGITAL (2017-2019) with a total budget of 25 M Euro, to speed up digitalization of Danish Manufacturing.

For more information

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