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edition

PRIXSTRATEGIS

Award for the Best Startup in Switzerland



A close-up photograph of a hand pouring a clear liquid from a bottle into a glass filled with ice. The background is blurred, showing other bottles and a person's arm. The text is overlaid on the image.

We are pleased to welcome you to the

**33RD EDITION OF THE PRIX
STRATEGIS**

at the Centre Patronal of Paudex.

We wish you a pleasant ceremony and look forward to spending time with you at the celebration's cocktail.

Summary

- 05 Program of The Ceremony
- 06 A Word from the Head of the Prix Strategis
- 07 A Word from the President of the Jury
- 08 The Jury
- 10 Discover the Prix Strategis
- 11 “Start-up launch and development course ” with Forvis Mazars
- 13 Consultants
- 15 Guest Speaker
- 16 Finalists
- 17 Last Year’s Winner
- 18 Former laureats
- 19 A Word from the President of HEC Espace Entreprise
- 20 HEC Espace Entreprise Team
- 21 Our Partners
- 22 Acknowledgments



Program of the Ceremony

● WELCOME REMARKS

BY Frédéric Lelièvre, CEO & Editor-in-Chief of AGEFI

● PRIX STRATEGIS PRESENTATION

BY Lia Boujol, Head of the Prix Strategis

● A WORD BY THE CENTRE PATRONAL

BY Luc Oesch, CFO of the Centre Patronal

● GUEST SPEAKER : PATRICK AEBISCHER

Neuroscientist and former President of EPFL

● FORVIS MAZARS PRESENTATION & BEST REPORT AWARD

BY Manuel Donze, Executive Director of Forvis Mazars

● FINALISTS INTRODUCTION

BY Edouard Lambelet, President of the jury

● FINALISTS' PITCHES

● A WORD BY AGEFI & AUDIENCE AWARD

BY Frédéric Lelièvre, CEO & Editor-in-Chief of AGEFI

● PRIX STRATEGIS WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

● CELEBRATION'S COCKTAIL



LIA BOUJOL
Head of Prix Strategis

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this 30th of April 2026, we celebrate the end of this 33rd edition of the Prix Strategis. An adventure that began on the 1st of September, with 90 applications, and only 5 tonight, who have managed to stand out and claim their place as finalists.

These have been carefully analyzed, through in-depth due diligence reviews, by the students of our course at HEC Lausanne. Their work supported that of the jury in selecting our 8 semi-finalists chosen in October, in order to present you with tonight's 5 finalists.

This edition marks my one and only year within our association HEC Espace Entreprise, where I took on, in June of last year, the challenging role of Head of the Prix Strategis. It was a true honor for me to be able to contribute to this edition, to the life of the prize, to nurture it and help it grow with what was within my power.

Being an entrepreneur at the start of one's career, in the first months, the first years, is no small feat. Having a sense of where one wants to go, knowing how to make the most of one's strengths and build on them, recognizing the resources one lacks, giving oneself the tools to go and find them, knowing how to ask for help, to accept it and use it wisely — these, to me, are truths that are part of the life of the entrepreneur.

The most important thing for me this year was to build, on the foundations of previous years, new groundwork for the next generation. I aspire for the Prix Strategis to continue to evolve, to grow richer, to offer a place where entrepreneurs can exchange, share, learn from one another, be inspired, and have faith, in themselves, in their project, and in their goals.

I am deeply grateful to all the people who took part in this project: thank you to the jury members, the partners, the coaches, the startups, who all managed to add their contribution to the Prix Strategis. Thank you also to the students, those from the course, but above all to those from the association, without whom tonight would not be possible.

For me, the Prix Strategis is far more than a prize. It is a true gathering place between accomplished professionals and new entrepreneurs where we celebrate ideas, projects, and the personalities who embody them.

Thank you all for being here, thank you for your support and for believing in it as much as we do.

Have a wonderful evening, all of you.



EDOUARD LAMBELET
President of the jury

Each year, for the 32nd time, the Prix Strategis honors a powerful idea of entrepreneurial excellence — the kind of excellence required when turning an innovative idea, a promising technology, and a motivated team into an economic reality.

This is one of the most demanding forms of excellence. Each finalist tonight beautifully embodies it. Regardless of their field, stage of development, or funding status, they all share the same drive: the belief that the world is within reach, if you aim high enough.

But the Prix Strategis is also a chance to highlight other crucial forms of excellence, just as essential to the success of ambitious ventures. These are ecosystem-level excellences: in education, in public-private innovation partnerships, in forward-thinking policy, and in mechanisms that support early-stage funding.

This year again, the Jury reviewed many outstanding applications, a positive sign of the strength and vitality of our Swiss startup ecosystem. The ambition behind the submitted projects, often aiming for global impact, reassures us about our country's innovative capacity and our ability to finance the earliest stages of growth.

We are encouraged, but not surprised! Switzerland is the perfect place for ambitious startups. Few ecosystems combine such a strong local base with global reach: a market that demands international thinking from the start; multinationals ready to become strategic partners; a dense network of early investors who support bold ideas; and a remarkable talent pool for building exceptional founding teams.

The “Switzerland of Startups” is ambitious, and thriving. But this ecosystem remains fragile. Let's commit to protecting and strengthening this alchemy that fuels our future economic success.

Dear friends of the Prix Strategis and the “Switzerland of Startups,” join me in celebrating all the passionate, determined, and innovative individuals who took part in this year's edition.

Wishing you all a wonderful evening.

Jury 2026



Edouard Lambelet
President of the jury



Fabrizio Marzolini
Y-Park Director



Diego Braguglia
General partner at VI Partners



Caroline Widmer
Pulse Incubateur HES, Geneva



Gabrielle Loeb
Business Development Coach, GENILEM – Founder, Digital Dynamo



Frédéric Loizeau
Co-Founder Lightium (Winner 2025)



Rémi Sabonnadière
Partner - Artefact



Isabelle Cohen-Solal
Member of the Board of Directors and Chair



Stéphane Page
CEO Condis Group



Jonathan Normand
CEO B-Lab Switzerland



Fabien Jacquier
Co-Founder Kyos



Patrick Botteron
Member of the Tech4Trust Advisory Board, Angel investor



Luc Zufferey
Investment Director, Profilgest SA



Nicolas Dorsaz
EPFL Innovation Satellite Manager chez Bühler Group

'AGEFI

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Prenez les meilleures décisions professionnelles.



Discover the Prix Strategis

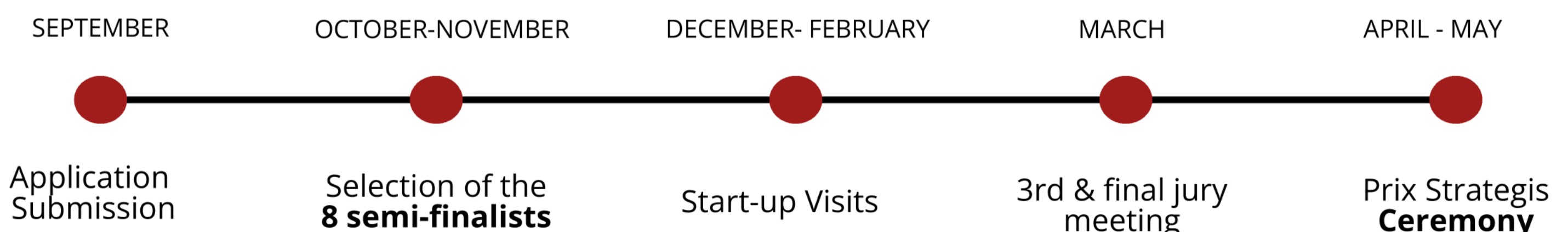
Since 1993, HEC Espace Entreprise has been presenting the Prix Strategis to honor the finest Swiss startup annually. The recipient not only receives a CHF 40,000 prize but also benefits from the esteemed reputation and increased exposure associated with the award.

Each startup undergoes an assessment according to the following four criteria:

- The **level of innovation** exhibited by the product/service.
- The startup's **potential for growth** on both national and international levels.
- The startup's **impact on the environment** and society (ESG).
- **Market viability** and proficiency in **operational management**.

Start-up Launch and Development:

The jury holds three meetings to determine which startups advance to the next stage. HEC students involved in the course "Start-up Launch and Development" assist jury members by creating a Due Diligence on the semi-finalists.



Course 3rd year of Bachelor HEC

“Start-up Launch and Development” with Forvis Mazars

The course ‘Startup Launch and Development’ allows HEC Lausanne students to become active participants in the Prix Strategis by taking part in evaluating startups!

In November, eight semi-finalist startups are each assigned to a group of four third-year Bachelor students at HEC Lausanne. Guided by a consultant, the students visit one of the startups to meet the entrepreneur and their team behind the project. During this visit, they analyze the company and gather the necessary information to write a due diligence report, which they then present to the jury plays a crucial role in the selection of the Prix Strategis finalists. Based on the quality of their report and presentation, the jury awards a prize to the most deserving group.

This project offers students a unique opportunity to become familiar with the consulting world, gain insight into the inner workings of a startup, and draw inspiration from the entrepreneurial spirit. This award creates a strong link between the University and the professional world.

We are extremely grateful to have Forvis Mazars supporting this initiative, partnering with the course and contributing through workshops delivered by their consultants.



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Consultants

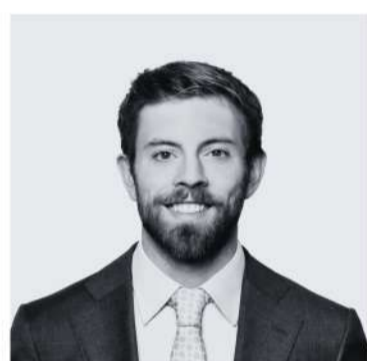
Academic rigor meets professional guidance



Martin D'Herbécourt
M&A Manager at Elysium
Advisors



Cédric Barde
Executive Director at Forvis
Mazars



Nicolas Berger
Managing Partner at
RESMEA Consulting Sàrl



Régis Morel
Lead of Sales Incensive and
Partner Commissioning at Salt
Mobile



Samuel Devanthéry
Founder of My Business
Advisor



Gabriel Lacome
Senior Consultant at KPMG
Strategy



Fabrice Rüfenacht
Head of Observatoire BCV
de l'économie Vaudoise



Christian Turbé
Managing Partner at
A2B Partners



Guest Speaker



PATRICK AEBISCHER
Guest Speaker

Patrick Aebischer is a neuroscientist and former President of EPFL, one of Europe's leading technical universities, which he led from 2000 to 2016.

A graduate in medicine and neuroscience from the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg, he also held research and faculty positions at Brown University before returning to Switzerland to lead the CHUV's surgical research division.

During his presidency at EPFL, Patrick Aebischer transformed the institution into a world-class research and innovation hub, creating new faculties in life sciences and management of technology, launching an innovation quarter to foster technology transfer, and overseeing landmark campus projects such as the Rolex Learning Center and the SwissTech Convention Center.

Beyond academia, Patrick Aebischer is a serial entrepreneur, having co-founded four biotech companies including Amazentis and Vandria. He presently serves on the board of directors of Nestlé and Polypeptide. He is the recipient of numerous scientific honours including four honorary doctorates.

His career embodies the intersection of rigorous science, academic leadership, and entrepreneurial vision.

Finalists



Virtuosis AI is developing voice-based biomarkers to assess health and psychological wellbeing. Its technology analyzes vocal features such as tone, pitch, and pace to generate fast, personalized insights from short recordings. By turning voice into a scalable health signal, Virtuosis offers a non-invasive, accessible solution while ensuring strong data privacy and seamless integration into everyday interactions.

Irmos

Irmos Technologies AG is transforming the maintenance of bridges and critical infrastructure through intelligent use of data. Its advanced monitoring software enables engineers to assess structural health in real time, extending asset lifespans while reducing maintenance costs and environmental impact. By combining engineering expertise with data analytics, Irmos delivers safer, more efficient, and sustainable infrastructure management at scale.



Isospec Analytics SA is a life science company focused on simplifying molecular identification. Its technology unlocks the potential of glycomics and metabolomics to accelerate biomarker discovery and support the development of safer nutritional and pharmaceutical products. By improving the precision and efficiency of molecular analysis, Isospec enables researchers and industry players to better understand complex biological systems and bring innovations to market faster.



Neology is developing carbon-free energy solutions using ammonia as a clean energy carrier. Its technology converts ammonia into hydrogen for fuel cells, enabling efficient and scalable energy for heavy transport and industrial applications. By leveraging ammonia's high energy density and existing infrastructure, Neology provides a practical pathway to accelerate the transition to sustainable, carbon-free power.



Cria Technologies is reinventing cold-chain logistics with breakthrough high-vacuum insulation technology. Its advanced containers enable significantly more efficient temperature-controlled transport for pharma and biotech, while being lighter and more compact than existing solutions. By reducing reliance on dry ice and liquid nitrogen, Cria lowers environmental impact and enables safer, longer, and more sustainable transport across a wide range of temperature conditions.

Words from Last year's winner **LIGHTIUM**



Data centers are among the fastest-growing energy consumers on the planet: a single medium-sized one in Switzerland draws as much power as the entire city of Lausanne. And 25% of that energy goes not to processing your ChatGPT queries, but simply to moving data around.

Lightium builds the photonic chips that make data transfer faster and more efficient. The demand for bandwidth doubles every 2 years, and we're building the manufacturing infrastructure to meet it efficiently before it becomes a crisis.

"We don't enter many startup competitions, but Prix Strategis is different. It's built by students, embedded in a real entrepreneurship curriculum, and it asks you to genuinely open the door: share how the company works, give honest feedback, and have real conversations."

That kind of engagement is rare, and it matters. Winning was an honor, but what stayed with me was the quality of the exchange. For a young deep-tech startup trying to build its name in the Swiss ecosystem, Prix Strategis is exactly the kind of recognition that opens the right doors."

Frédéric Loizeau, CRO & Co-founder of Lightium

Former laureats

2025 - Lightium

LIGHTIUM

Lightium AG is a Swiss startup developing advanced photonic chips using lithium niobate. Their technology enables faster, more energy-efficient, and compact devices, simplifying production and lowering costs while supporting large-scale manufacturing for telecom, data centers, and AI.

2024 - HeroSupport



HeroSupport

HeroSupport is a MedTech start-up founded in 2022, dedicated to optimizing breast cancer radiotherapy through the use of the prone position. This innovative approach aims to reduce radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissues while improving patient comfort and overall treatment efficiency.

2023 - Corintis



Corintis revolutionizes chip cooling for high-performance computing used in drug discovery and climate modeling. Microscopic embedded cooling channels extract heat 10 times more efficiently, making circuits more powerful and environmentally friendly.

2022 - Comppair



CompPair's innovative chemical process creates a self-repairing composite material that can be fixed by applying heat, providing economic benefits through longer lifespan, lower maintenance costs, and environmental friendliness.

2021 - Volumina Medical



Volumina Medical is an innovative company in the field of reconstructive surgery. The company develops regenerative and degradable plants for natural breast reconstruction in a minimally invasive manner.



NATHAN PERRUCHOUD

President of HEC Espace Entreprise

Ladies and Gentlemen,
First of all, welcome to the 33rd edition of the Prix Strategis.

Each year, this competition highlights startups that stand out through their ambition, relevance, value proposition, and their potential for growth. This edition is no exception. The five finalists you will discover represent a wide range of industries and strategic approaches, yet they all share a strong entrepreneurial drive and a clear vision for the future.

The Prix Strategis is not only a competition, but also a platform that connects promising ventures with experienced professionals. Through the involvement of our jury, startups benefit from valuable feedback, visibility, and meaningful opportunities for development.

Leading HEC Espace Entreprise this year has been a great responsibility and a rewarding experience. Organizing an event of this scale requires rigor, commitment, and strong collaboration, and I am proud of the work accomplished by our team to deliver a high-quality edition.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all the members of the association for their dedication and professionalism throughout this project.

I would like to sincerely thank the University of Lausanne, our partners, sponsors, and jury members for their continued trust and support. Their contribution plays a key role in ensuring the relevance and credibility of the Prix Strategis.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all participating startups. Their work and dedication reflect the dynamism of today's entrepreneurial ecosystem, and we are honored to showcase their projects.

Thank you, and we hope you will enjoy this edition of the Prix Strategis.



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Instagram : @hec_esapce_entreprise

Printed by Reprographie UNIL

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