

## News Release

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### **Displaying Futures Award Attracts High Interest**

- **Call for proposals targets flexible hybrid electronics applications**
- **Number of ideas submitted for the prize for young entrepreneurs and researchers more than doubled**
- **Winning teams come from Canada and the United Kingdom**

Darmstadt, Germany, June 26, 2017 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, is presenting the second Displaying Futures Award to foster young entrepreneurs. The aim of this year's call for proposals is to identify flexible applications in the field of hybrid electronics. The number of ideas submitted rose from 31 to 69, submitted by creative minds from 22 countries. The ten best teams gathered for the event to pitch their ideas in Darmstadt on June 23, 2017. The winning teams have devoted themselves to future-oriented technologies, such as wearable biomonitors, soft robotics, electronic sensors, or packaging. The Displaying Futures Award is again worth a total of US\$ 150,000.

Dieter Schroth, who initiated the award and is responsible for innovative liquid crystal applications in the Display Materials business unit, said, "We're highly impressed by the second round of the award. Both the multitude of submitted applications and the significant increase in quality confirm that we're on the right track. We're also very proud of the wide range of topics that will involve all our business sectors and their expertise."

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, did not look for start-ups that had already been launched, but searched for teams from university or institutional settings. At the end of the event, a jury consisting of various specialists from all areas of the company chose three winning teams. The winners were evaluated based on the criteria of novelty, business potential, and impacts on society and the environment.

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The following three ideas were rewarded:

- FloPatch from KE2 Technologies, Canada, is a disposable wearable patch for the non-invasive real-time monitoring of blood flow based on ultrasound technology. The sensor is applied to determine the effectiveness of emergency interventions within seconds, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation compressions and fluid responsiveness.
- Tangi0 from the United Kingdom is a materials-based platform technology that replaces complex electronic sensors with one flexible touch-sensitive material combined with smart software algorithms, producing 3D controls that are ergonomic, intuitive and engaging.
- Texavie from Canada has developed a nanofiber sensor technology for thin and lightweight sensing skin used in patches or smart textile. This technology delivers a revolutionary solution for advanced AR/VR interaction as well as wearable health monitoring and soft robotics.

In addition to financial support, for one year the winners of the Displaying Futures Awards will receive training, exclusive mentoring from experts within and outside of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and access to a global network. This year, the jury decided again to support each of the winning teams with US\$ 50,000. The Displaying Futures Awards 2017 cycle will end in June 2018 with an event to pitch their ideas to investors.

As part of its innovation strategy, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, specifically focuses on international exchanges with young entrepreneurs who are working on future-oriented business ideas. In addition to formats such as the Displaying Futures Award, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has been collaborating intensively with start-ups and universities for years and also conducts, for example, the Accelerator program for start-ups at its sites in Darmstadt and Nairobi, Kenya. Moreover, the company regularly holds hackathons and invests in start-up companies via corporate venturing.



**Caption:**

The three winning teams of this year's Displaying Futures Awards come from universities in Canada and the United Kingdom. ©Photo: Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2016, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 15.0 billion in 66 countries. Founded in 1668, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, holds the global rights to the „Merck“ name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.