



**THE EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEUR  
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2011**

In association with  
 **Schroders**  
Private Banking

  
**TECHTOUR**

# Press Pack



## The 2011 European Entrepreneur of the Year Award opens for entries

**Geneva, Switzerland and London UK, July 18, 2011:** The European Tech Tour Association, in partnership with Schrodgers Private Bank, today invited submissions for the 6th annual European Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The award recognises the finest European entrepreneur in the field of high technology. The deadline for entries is August 15th and the Award will be held on November 2nd, 2011 at a gala dinner during the European Tech Tour Association Web & Mobility Summit in London.

Companies can register at: <http://www.techtour.com/Registration.htm>

In order to take part, companies must meet precise criteria:

- The company must be under 15 years old
- It must both develop technology in, and offer technology to, the European market
- Sales for the last 3 years must show 50% growth year on year
- Revenues must originate from several countries

In addition, it is preferred if the management is drawn from Europe and the founder remains in charge.

The Award, designed to support innovative companies and entrepreneurs, has earned a prestigious reputation. In 2010, over 200 companies submitted entries to the selection committee composed of Europe's leading venture capital and corporate venture companies.

The 2011 selection committee includes George Coelho, *Good Energies*, Sven Lingjaerde, *European Tech Tour Association*, Dharmash Mistry, *Balderton*, Harry Nelis, *Accel Partners*, Roman Simonov, *Russia Partners* Olivier Schwab, *World Economic Forum*, Shardul Shah, *Index Venture*, , Patrick Sheehan, *Environmental Technology Fund*, Yossi Sela, *Gemini Israel Fund*, Daniel Waterhouse *Wellington Partners*, and Sumon Sadhu of *Quid*.

The selection committee will review all applications and make the final decision on the winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award as well as the Schrodgers Innovation Award, which will recognise the company with the most promising future. Previous winners include MySQL, Vente-Privee, and Corevalve (sold for over \$700 million).

Opening the call for entries, Sven Lingjaerde, president, European Tech Tour Association said: "Entrepreneurs have been put front and centre of the developing economic recovery and for those high-tech entrepreneurs in Europe, there are some incredible opportunities out there. The Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognises those businesses that have made the most profound impact and I am once again very excited by the opportunity to see the best Europe has to offer."

Bernhard Leibkutsch of Schrodgers said "The European Entrepreneur of the Year Award has had a continued increase in applications over the last few years and the quality of the companies just continues to grow. We regard this acknowledgement

of Entrepreneurship in Europe as vital and are very happy to be partnering with the European Tech Tour Association for the 2011 edition of the Award. We look forward to meet another round of great entrepreneurs.”

### **About the European Entrepreneur of the Year Awards**

The European Entrepreneur of the Year Award is presented to the European technology entrepreneur whose private company has had the biggest impact, on the largest number of people, in the least amount of time. The Schrodgers Innovation Award is presented to an up and coming Entrepreneur with a visionary product or breakthrough technology with predicted future growth. The winners are selected by an independent committee of business leaders and venture capitalists including representatives from the World Economic Forum, Good Energies, Balderton and other leading venture capital firms in Europe.

For further information, please visit

<http://www.techtour.com/Entrepreneur-of-the-Year-Award-2011/Overview.htm>

### **About the European Tech Tour Association**

The European Tech Tour Association (ETT) was founded in Geneva in 1998 in response to the growing interest in emerging technology companies in various European regions. ETT is an independent, not-for-profit organisation composed of key contributors to the high technology industry. The Association recognises that continued prosperity in Europe lies in its ability to transform today's innovative projects into tomorrow's global technology leaders. For further information, please visit [www.techtour.com](http://www.techtour.com)

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ETTAssociation](http://www.twitter.com/ETTAssociation)

### **Schrodgers**

Schrodgers, a global investment-management company, was established in 1804 and the Schroder family still controls 47% of the voting shares. Schrodgers Plc, one of Britain's major listed private companies, has been present in Switzerland since 1967. Its offices in Zurich and Geneva (since 1984) look after local and international private and institutional investors. Schroder & Co Banque SA offers a wide range of assetmanagement and credit services (with 320 billion Swiss francs currently under management). As part of a leading international asset-management organisation, the company combines a well-established local presence with the international resources and global perspective of the Schroder Group.

[www.schrodgers.com](http://www.schrodgers.com)

***For more information, interview requests, or press accreditation to the Entrepreneur of the Year Award please contact:***

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**WONGA.COM AND SOUNDCLOUD NAMED THE MOST INNOVATIVE START-UPS IN EUROPE**

***Winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award announced at***

***2011 Web & Mobility Summit Gala Dinner***

**London, November 2, 2011** – The winners of the European Entrepreneur of the Year Awards and the Schrodgers Innovation Award 2011 were announced last night at the Web & Mobility Summit Gala Dinner held at the London Museum. SoundCloud, an online platform for the creators of sound content, founded in 2007 received the Schrodgers Innovation Award, while Errol Damelin, CEO of Wonga.com, an automated loan processing platform, took top honours and was named Entrepreneur of the Year.

“These awards celebrate young, emerging European technology companies that have demonstrated an ability to bring a unique and original concept to the fore,” said Sven Linjaerde, Chairman and Founder of the European Tech Tour Association. “Both Wonga and SoundCloud exudes the qualities inherent in successful start-ups. They have a sound business model, proven track record, are bringing true innovation to market and measurable growth and resourcefulness amid a still challenging and tough economic climate.”

Wonga.com, launched in 2007, is a ground-breaking online lender. Wonga has developed the world’s first automated and straight-through loan processing solution, in order to transform existing lending models which are slow, rigid and rely heavily on manual decision making. The essence of their service is the ability for consumers to complete a loan application entirely online and in real-time.

[SoundCloud](#) is a platform built for the creators of sound content. SoundCloud provides a community for creators and excellent tools for them to collaborate and share their audio across the web, desktop applications and mobile devices. SoundCloud has rapidly become the platform of choice for both hobby creators and the professional music industry.

Previous winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognised for their creativity and ability to turn their ideas into commerce include: Betfair, Spartoo, MySQL, Parallels, QlikTech and GAMEFORGE.

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