



PRESS RELEASE

June 13th, 2016

Twenty-Two Scottish businesses to pitch for up to £100,000 of Scottish EDGE funding and support *Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

Next week, twenty-two Scottish businesses will pitch in front of a panel of industry-leading entrepreneurs and business-people for up to £100,000 of Scottish EDGE funding and support to enable them to scale. Taking place on Monday, June 20th, 2016 at the Royal Bank of Scotland's Gogarburn Conference Centre, the Scottish EDGE round eight final will showcase Scotland's most innovative, high-growth potential start-up businesses, with a prize pot of £1.3 million available to boost Scotland's economy by supporting the country's small businesses.

The businesses, which represent a wide spectrum of industries and sectors and originate from across the central belt and the north, will be given fifteen minutes to pitch their company and answer the questions of an expert panel, which includes Lord Smith of Kelvin, Dr Rabinder Buttar, Marcelino Castillo, Stuart Macdonald and Donna Chisholm. The businesses' pitches will also be watched by an audience of 650 members of the public, investors, business leaders and entrepreneurship supporters.

To reach the final, each business was required to submit an application and video pitch in March 2016, which were assessed by ten industry panels before being invited to give a live pitch to a semi-final panel at one of three semi-finals in May 2016. A total of 239 applications were received.

Now in its eighth round, the Scottish EDGE - which is supported by the Hunter Foundation, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Scottish Government - has had an unquestionable impact on the Scottish economy. Our 130 winners have, to date, created an additional 641 jobs, generated an additional £31.8 million in turnover, and received additional external funding to the sum of £28.4 million.

The final is split in two, with a day-time pitching event, and an evening awards ceremony. The day-time event offers the chance to watch this year's Scottish EDGE finalists pitch for up to £100,000 in front of our expert panel of judges. For the 650 expected attendees, the event also offers the opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of Scottish businesses and entrepreneurial support organisations. In particular, we're excited to welcome Vodafone as our key partner for the current round, who will have a team of experts on hand to support Scotland's business community. At our evening awards ceremony, we'll be announcing the winners of the day's Scottish EDGE pitching rounds, and unveiling the prizes across our other three categories, the Young EDGE, Wildcard EDGE, and Higgs EDGE, the winners of which have already been announced. The event will also include a keynote from Calum Smeaton, founder of Scottish EDGE winning business TVSquared.

ENDS

Photography & Enquiries

Photography from previous Scottish EDGE final events and of the judging panel is available here: XXX
All media enquiries should be directed to Christopher Sladdin, Marketing & Communications Assistant at christopher.sladdin@scotedge.com or on +44 (0) 7984 925 979.

Notes to Editor

Scottish EDGE celebrated a successful year last year. Highlights included:

- Our 100th Scottish EDGE Award winner Float, software that links to FreeAgent, Xero and generates cash-flow forecasts, received £100,000 during Round 7.
- Round 7 saw the launch of Higgs EDGE for highly innovative technology, oil and gas, and medical businesses thanks to an anonymous £500,000 donation from a Scottish businessman and philanthropist.
- Our highest ever award went to one of the first Higgs EDGE Winners. Epipole received £150,000 towards "epiCam" - a hand-held retinal camera to check for retinal vasculature disease.
- Round 6 successfully launched WildCard EDGE to help businesses who were pre-trading take their businesses to the next level.
- One of our Round 2 winners, the mobile fashion application Mallzee, raised investment of £2.5 million.

About Scottish EDGE

Scottish EDGE is a competition aimed at identifying and supporting Scotland's up-and-coming, innovative, high-growth potential entrepreneurial talent.

Scottish EDGE is made up of four categories; Scottish EDGE, for companies of all sectors and stages; Higgs EDGE, a special technology award aimed at entrepreneurs who have an engineering, science or technology based business and have a product, or product under development, which is scalable and capable of globalisation; Young EDGE, for companies where all directors are under the age of 30; and WildCard EDGE, for companies who are currently pre-trading.

Historically the Scottish EDGE was run by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise alongside various partners, however, in August 2014 Sir Tom Hunter and the Royal Bank of Scotland agreed to extend the success of the fund and lead in its delivery going forward.

David Shearer chairs the Scottish EDGE board with directors from The Hunter Foundation and Royal Bank of Scotland, alongside an Advisory Board drawn from our partners in Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Business Gateway, Entrepreneurial Scotland and Prince's Trust.