

PRESS INFORMATION

GTEC and Merck Announce Partnership: Global scouting for Innovative Startups and Researchers

- **GTEC supports Merck in their search for suitable startups and scientific spin-offs to build mentorship cooperations**

Berlin, 27. September 2017 – Merck, the science and technology company, is a new partner of the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC). Since its foundation in 1668, Merck has always been committed to innovation, which nowadays especially arises within startups; therefore, Merck has been increasingly relying on the inventiveness of young companies. The best example of this would be the accelerator of the Innovation Center at Merck's headquarters in Darmstadt.

The new partnership significantly expands their commitment to innovation and brings GTEC, one of the most optimally positioned institutions in this area, together with the long-established company Merck. In addition to suitable startups, GTEC will also look for international academic partners for Merck while nurturing such partnerships, which will in turn benefit the academic spin-offs and institutes also working on the innovations of tomorrow.

The increasing interest into future innovations by companies like Merck and educational institutions is fertile ground for digital progress and GTEC is excellently suited to foster cooperations in this field, thanks to its unique global network with various leading universities and startup hubs. Merck complements GTEC's broad partner base, which already includes Henkel, innogy, Noerr, the Sigmund Kiener Foundation, the Globumbus Foundation, Union Investment and Tishman Speyer.

“We are pleased about the trust Merck has placed in us. Here we can once again prove that our unique, independent positioning between startups, companies and academia is the way to succeed across all industries”, says Benjamin Rohé, founding Managing Director of GTEC.

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Since 2015, GTEC has helped more than 30 organisations and companies, from BOSCH to the European Union, to meet the challenges of digital change. In the GTEC Executive Education Program, for example, experienced startup founders meet group managers to learn from each other.

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Please find press material at: www.gtec.center/press

About Merck

Merck 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.

Founded in 1668, Merck is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck, 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.

About GTEC

The German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) is the first private-sector, open campus for technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe and it is connecting an international network of companies, universities, and startups along with the public. GTEC was founded in Berlin in 2015 and is supported by Globumbus, Henkel, innogy, Noerr, Sigmund Kiener Stiftung, Tishman Speyer and Union Investment.

GTEC has campuses in Berlin and Frankfurt/Main. Under the triad of “Inspire, Guide, Grow”, it promotes entrepreneurship on a global scale through a diverse set of offerings. Among them are Open Lectures and Meetups, the GTEC Startup Academy and GTEC Startup Lab, plus Executive Education programmes. To promote innovation in high potential fields, GTEC, together with industry partners, holds innovation awards such as the Blockchain, the PropTech and the IPRIZE Machine Economy Awards. More information at <http://www.gtec.center>

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