

## PRESS RELEASE

# Nine international startups are nominated for world's first PropTech Innovation Award Ceremony

- **Union Investment and German Tech Entrepreneurship Center want to find the most innovative startups that have the potential to disrupt the real estate industry**
- **Over 200 applications from 46 countries**
- **Live pitches in front of audience and jury on May 17, 2017 in Berlin**

*Berlin, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2017* – Union Investment and the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC), Europe's first private campus for entrepreneurship, are hosting the world's first PropTech Innovation Award. Its goal is to award innovative ideas that have the potential to disrupt the real estate industry on a global level. Startups around the world have been asked to apply. The criteria were intentionally broad because disruption often comes from companies that are not part of the industry.

Over 200 Startups from 46 nations sent in their applications. From that pool, Union Investment and GTEC selected nine companies for the final round. The finalists will pitch their ideas on May 17, 2017 in Berlin in front of a live audience. The total prize money is 35.000 Euro. On top of that, the winner will get a spot in the recently-opened new GTEC Lab in Frankfurt am Main. There they will get free office space and access to the GTEC network of mentors and investors.

### **Invitation to the award ceremony on May 17**

The PropTech Innovation Award ceremony will take place on May 17 in Berlin-Mitte. As the introduction, Ragnar Lifthrasir, founder of the International Blockchain Real Estate Association, will give a keynote about blockchain in real estate. This will pave the way to the live pitches of the nine finalists. Lifthrasir will also moderate the panel discussion about change through digitisation in classic industries. On the panel are Jörn Stobbe of Union Investment, Christian Schulz-Wulkow, MD at Ernst&Young Real Estate, Dr. Dirk Hecker, MD at Fraunhofer Allianz Big Data, and Prof. Wolfgang Schäfers, Professor of Real Estate Management, IREBS, all of whom are also members of the jury.

Highlight of the day will be the announcement of the three best startups and the awarding of the prizes, followed by a get-together with snacks and drinks and also interview opportunities.

**Journalists are hereby cordially invited. Please use the following link to register:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/proptech-innovation-award-ceremony-tickets-33762485503>

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### Schedule and Location

The event will take place on May 17 2017 at the ESMT-Campus, Schlossplatz 1 in Berlin-Mitte:

2:30pm – Doors open

3:00pm – Keynote Ragnar Lifthrasir, Founder International Blockchain Real Estate Association

3:20pm – Startup Pitches and Panel Discussion

5:30pm – Announcement of the winner

6:00pm – Networking, Snack and Drinks

### The PropTech Innovation Award Jury

Due to the complex topic, the PropTech Innovation Award Jury is staffed with interdisciplinary experts. Its members come from the fields of science, startups and real estate industry. Together they will decide which is the most innovative startup. In addition to the ones named above, Ron Hillmann, MD at BVP Berlin Venture Partners, Jan Thomas, Editor of the Startup-Magazine Berlin Valley, and Benjamin Rohé, MD at GTEC, are also members of the jury.

These are the startups that made it onto the final round and will present their ideas on May 17:

### The finalists of the PropTech Innovation Award 2017

- DRS Defect Radar from Vienna is a cloud-based SaaS solution for construction documentation and defect management in real estate projects;
- Architrave from Berlin provides a digital real estate management solution through one centralized platform;
- Casavi from Munich is a cloud-platform solution for digital property management;
- Green City Solutions from Berlin develops smart solutions in the field of environmental services, CleanTech and sustainable urban planning;
- BrickVest from London disrupts the model of how to invest in real estate around the globe;
- ALLVR from Berlin creates a cloud-based business platform for visualization and communication on virtual reality headsets;
- Building Radar from Munich is an online search engine to spot new construction projects worldwide and track their progress from planning to realisation;
- Opinum from Charleroi (Belgium) is an online portal that centralizes and gives sense to building data;
- PointGrab from Israel is a machine learning and computer vision company that provides innovative sensing platform to the smart building industry.

Behind the following link you will find **further information**:

<http://gtec.berlin/proptech2017/>

Behind the following link you will find **pictures**:

<http://newsfeed2.egs.com/unionreal/546519.html>

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### **About Union Investment Real Estate GmbH**

Union Investment is one of the leading real estate investment managers in Europe. Our offering comprises open real estate general and special funds as well as service- and bundle mandated with a total volume of over 32 billion Euro. With a transactional volume of 4.6 billion Euro in 2016, Union Investment was once again one of the most active investment players in the market.

Union Investment is promoting digitisation in different areas of activity like the automation of business processes and smart analytics. To exploit the big potential to expand and develop the business model, Union Investment is cooperating for example with the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) in Berlin.

### **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 ESMT, 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: from education programmes and innovation awards to meetups and workshops.

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