

SWISS
Ai
AWARD
2020



Mindfire

Daedalean AG
Winner
Swiss AI Award 2020

AiCon2020: The annual AI festival and the first national Swiss AI award launched in the heart of Switzerland



The Education and Research Minister Guy Parmelin at AiCon2020 in Pfäffikon. (Photo: AiCon)

Pfäffikon - The new AiCon event series has successfully launched under the patronage of Switzerland's Federal Councilor Guy Parmelin. The new annual festival for AI innovations was kicked off on Wednesday with an attractive networking event. Together with several partners, the host Canton of Schwyz invited 60 distinguished guests from politics, business, research and society to the Hotel Seedamm Plaza in Pfäffikon, Schwyz. Guests listened to inspiring presentations from well-known figures of the AI scene, and attended the presentation of the first national AI award to the Zurich start-up "Daedalean AI" for its innovation in autonomous flying.

The host and organiser Canton Schwyz - represented by Government Councilor Andreas Barraud - received 60 distinguished guests from politics, business, research, and society at Hotel Seedamm Plaza in Pfäffikon, Schwyz, at the start of the new annual AI festival AiCon. The event is under the patronage of Federal Councilor Guy Parmelin, Minister of Education and Research. He greeted the audience by video message: "AiCon is the right initiative at the right time - a platform that unites business, science, technology, politics, and society. It's a positive movement that focuses on the opportunities offered by AI. I will do the utmost to ensure that this initiative extends to all of Switzerland!"

Futurist Gerd Leonhard thrilled the audience with spectacular visions of the future, Microsoft Switzerland CEO Marianne Janik and digitalswitzerland President Ivo Furrer elaborated on the role that Switzerland can play as a leading AI hotspot, and the AI ethics expert Dorothea Baur provided a valuable overview of opportunities and risks connected to the use and application of artificial intelligence.

The Swiss AI Award

The evening highlight was the presentation of the first national AI award by jury president and AI pioneer Pascal Kaufmann to Daedalean AI from Zurich, as recognition for their innovation in the field of autonomous flying. Typewise from Binningen (BL) with their new keyboard for mobile applications, and Gamaya from Morges (VD) with their algorithms for automation of

agriculture and pest control, took second and third place. Finalists prevailed over hundreds of other startups in a thorough process. The Swiss AI Award is sponsored by the Mindfire Foundation, the >> venture >> Award of the ETH, the ZKB Pioneer Award, the Digital Economy Award, the Swiss ICT Award, the Swiss ICT Investor Club SICTIC and other well-known foundations and organisations throughout Switzerland, which for the first time have come together under the umbrella of the topic of artificial intelligence. The award is presented annually and honors the most promising and innovative AI start-ups from Switzerland.

In his closing speech, Councilor Barraud was already looking forward to AiCon2021 and emphasised his hope that the event can open to a larger audience next year with a second conference day and without fear of pandemics. (AiCon/mc/ps)

AiCon in brief

Thanks to broad support from business, science, politics and education, AiCon regards itself as the leading Swiss conference in the field of artificial intelligence. The conference presents extensive know-how and technologies that change and fundamentally shape our way of life and work. The event aims to further strengthen Switzerland as a globally leading AI hub, and enable forward-looking and open dialogue. AiCon is made possible and organised by Canton Schwyz in cooperation with other partners.