



Sustainable Chemistry and Renewable Energies – Pathways to the Future

ISC3 connects international start-ups and investors at the very first "Global Sustainable Chemistry Week (GSCW)" - Estonian start-up UpCatalyst wins ISC3 Innovation Challenge

*This year's Investor Forum 2021 took place in the frame of the **very first "Global Sustainable Chemistry Week (GSCW)"** hosted by the **International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)**. A total of 170 international guests from start-ups, finance, industry, science, NGOs and politics took part in the virtual third international **Investor Forum** of the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3). The ISC3 Investor Forum ended with the announcement of this year's winners of our **Innovation Challenge on Renewable Energies and Sustainable Chemistry**.*

During the three-day expert event, the ISC3 brought together innovative sustainable chemistry and renewable energy solutions in front of distinguished international investors. Throughout this event, investors had the opportunity to interact firsthand with our sustainable chemistry Start-ups and engage in in-depth conversations about their solutions. Additionally, the ISC3 presented diverse panels in the topics of new and alternative business models; regulation and reporting in connection with chemical-related restrictions and the role of sustainable chemistry in the energy transition and ways forward and concluded the ISC3 Innovation Challenge 2020/2021 with the award ceremony.

The ISC3 Investor Forum ended with the announcement of this year's winners of our Innovation Challenge on Renewable Energies and Sustainable Chemistry. The ISC3 Innovation Challenge aims to engage, award and promote sustainable chemistry innovators and their original solutions.

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The following start-ups convinced the international jury and stakeholders across the board as part of the ISC3 Innovation Challenge 2020/2021:

The main winner of the ISC3 Innovation Award in Sustainable Chemistry and Renewable Energy, endowed with €15,000, was the Estonian start-up **UpCatalyst**. The start-up produces sustainable carbon nanomaterials from CO₂ and waste biomass for a vast range of applications from battery technologies to biomedicine.

The Nigerian start-up **Shobab Energy** won the innovation prize in the awarded category "Best Regional Impact", endowed with €5,000. Ms Tosin George, Founder of Shobab Energy, is positioning to deliver sustainable, reliable, and affordable electrification best fit for off-grid communities via a hybrid system using biomass resources and Solar PV technology.

And the Kenyan start-up **LeafyLife** not only won the hearts of the audience on the third conference day, but also the Innovation Challenge Award 2020/2021 in the category "Best Social Impact", endowed with €5,000. LeafyLife recycles waste diapers and sanitary pads into a fuel gel that emits 76% less carbon dioxide, no carbon monoxide, and no smoke or soot. and thus provides clean fuel for safer and healthier African homes while cleaning the environment and mitigating climate change.

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About ISC3

The **International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre** promotes Sustainable Chemistry for a sustainable world. ISC3 supports the chemical industry and chemical-related sectors in their transformation process through sustainable, innovative approaches from Sustainable Chemistry. The goal is a circular economy that implements the multiple aspects of sustainability over the entire life cycle of products and a rethinking of the behaviour of all stakeholders. To advance the dialogue between different sectors and actors worldwide, including Europe and other regions as well as emerging and developing countries, ISC3 follows a multi-stakeholder approach with the networking of policymakers, public and private sectors, education, science and society. It contributes to international chemicals policy, develops professional and academic training programs, advises companies, and promotes start-ups and research. Founded in 2017 by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, the centre is supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and by the Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (DECHEMA e.V.) as ISC3 Innovation Hub and Leuphana University Lüneburg as ISC3 Research & Education Hub. www.isc3.org