DRAGONS’ DEN
ENTREPRENEURS
TOP 50
Welcome to the Dragons’ Den!

The Global Forum on Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship is excited to welcome 50 of the world’s most inspiring high-growth entrepreneurs to participate in this year’s Dragons’ Den Pitching Competition!

Entrepreneurs are a powerful engine for development, particularly those who develop innovative, technology-enabled solutions. Recent research suggests that new and growth-oriented firms are likely to contribute disproportionately to economic activity and provide important new sources of high-value employment. Relying on their creativity, resourcefulness, and knowledge of the business environment, growth-oriented entrepreneurs fill important gaps in their countries’ markets.

The Dragons’ Den is an opportunity to celebrate entrepreneurial successes through the global stage of the Global Forum and enable entrepreneurs to benefit from this celebration. It brings together promising entrepreneurs from Africa and other developing regions to compete for awards, and connects them with mentors, angels, corporate partners, and other high growth entrepreneurs from around the globe.

This year’s Dragons’ Den builds on the success of infoDev’s first global Top 50 Competition, held at the 4th Global Forum in Helsinki, Finland in 2011. Many of the winners of that competition have gone on to experience great success. Social advertising startup SocialWire had a well-publicized launch in 2012 and attracted $2 million in seed capital. Another, Ecofiltro, opened a new manufacturing plant for their household water filtration systems in Guatemala. With revenues topping $1 million annually, the social business is clearing a path for future international expansion.

On the following pages you’ll be introduced to some of the best of the numerous companies that are part of infoDev’s global network. They were selected to participate in this year’s Dragons’ Den from a pool of winners from various partner competitions, such as DEMO Africa, GIST Transformers, African Diaspora Marketplace, Cleantech Open, PitchItCaribbean, and infoDev Hackathons.

The entrepreneurs driving the development of these firms are ambitious, adept, and globally-minded. By providing needed goods and services, creating jobs and improving the quality of life, these high growth and technology-enabled enterprises have the potential to transform their markets. Though it may be the first time you’ve heard of these companies, it likely won’t be the last!
infoDev hosts idea, business plan and pitching competitions for startups, often in partnership with other entities. These are not approached as onetime events to generate publicity and attention. Rather, we consider these events part of a holistic, mind-to-market process. These competitions are an effective means to identify those ideas, entrepreneurs, business models and founding teams that have the potential to secure further investment and grow into successful enterprises with local, regional or even international market potential. Competition winners are linked to the appropriate financing and marketing guidance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRAGONS’ DEN</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afroes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro Servicios (Gutsamba)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amant Antenna</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angaza Design</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asly</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beza Mar Honey</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centsless</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobitec Limited</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Design Services (CDS)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COR BREVIS (Hydrogen Industrial)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEZYMOBILE Solutions (eezydeel)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eskimi</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eneza Education (MPrep)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmerline</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FireString</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fomobi</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going tosphere</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greengar</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenovation Technologies</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innokiq (mPawa)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interact XL</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khaya Power</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuza Mobile</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ListenMi Caribbean (CDMA)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maliyo Games</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MicroForester</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MobiFlock</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilab</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Payment Solutions (MPS)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Skills to Cash (MS2C)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MobiTrader</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mpayer</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Zege Technologies)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Input</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProWork</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qabila Media</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productions</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robopartans</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMA Kenya</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SkilPod Media</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SliceBiz</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smellnat</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TeleSkin</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Files Indonesia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiket.com</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TransAtlantic EcoPower (EcoPower Liberia)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcel</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tugo Builds</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TurboEoms</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UpEnergy</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VirtualBank</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Indies Recycling (WIR) Limited</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New and growth-oriented firms are likely to contribute disproportionately to economic activity and provide important new sources of high-value jobs.

- THE STARTUP ACT, KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION
Afroes mission is to inspire the conversations and choices of young Africans through branded digital media and socially responsible campaigns rooted in the African context. The company creates uniquely African mobile applications and tools for social development agencies and corporate enterprises keen to spread educational and branded messages across the continent. Afroes was born to celebrate Africa’s rich heritage and instill messages of hope and possibility in young people.

To ensure the widest possible reach among young people, including those at the bottom-of-the-pyramid, Afroes is leveraging the rapid growth of mobile in Africa, which represents an unprecedented opportunity to deliver branded and educational messages directly and repeatedly into the hands and pockets of potential customers and citizens across the continent and beyond.

AGRO SERVICOS (GUTSAMBA)

Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources, including a variety of indigenous wild fruits. However, very few processed fruit-based products sold in the Mozambican retail network are labeled as "Made in Mozambique", and almost none of them are 100% natural fruit-based products.

Agro Servicos is attempting to address this unmet need by improving both the quality and quantity of locally sourced fruit-based products available in the market. Selling under the Gutsamba brand, the company differentiates itself from its competitors by using fresh, 100% natural ingredients to create unique recipes that take into consideration Mozambican tastes and culture. It has also invested in better-engineered and packaged products that have reduced costs.

AMANT ANTENNA

LTE represents the next big step towards the 4th generation (4G) of radio technologies, but implementation costs are high. With the currently used technology, different base station antennas have to be added for each new frequency band deployed – and there will be 38 different frequency combinations in LTE by 2015. Moreover, phone operators cannot use common antennas; they must have separate networks of base station antennas, making deployment very expensive.

Amant Antennas is commercializing a novel cellular base station antenna technology that addresses these challenges. The new design allows a single antenna to cover multiple frequency bands, simply by adding lower cost ‘feeds’ to the existing antenna. Easily upgradeable, the new antennas are low-cost and are light-weight and foldable, making them easier to deploy. They can also be shared between different mobile operators.

Angaza has developed a patent pending technology that allows customers to purchase energy for phones, lights, and devices on a Pay-As-You-Go basis. Embedded into the solar units sold by the company, the technology puts high-quality, life-changing solar products within financial reach of all kerosene-dependent households by allowing them to pay for light in small increments over time – and at a lower cost than kerosene.

Angaza’s product is tied directly into regional mobile money systems such as MPESA, so customers can purchase “energy credit” directly from their phones. The technology is inexpensive and easily scalable, and requires very little behavioral change for the customer.
Cobitech Limited is working to create solutions for the inadequate access to clean energy for cooking and lighting for rural households in Kenya. In rural Kenya, 98% of households use firewood for cooking and kerosene for lighting, and 95% of the rural households have no access to electricity. These conditions have contributed to immense environmental pressures, including deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Cobitech Limited is producing clean renewable energy to replace fossil-based fuels. The company’s biogas technology utilizes organic wastes that have no or little economic value to the communities for energy generation. Cobitech Limited seeks to use this technology to generate 2MW of electricity for rural electrification. The biogas technology will also promote organic agriculture, which has huge environmental benefits since it mitigates the release of nitrous oxide to the atmosphere coming from the use of chemical and synthetic fertilizers.

Centless is a rewards system that aims to make learning not only educational but fun as well. The company has designed and created a system that allows education providers to gamify their classrooms and make learning exciting for their students. Students earn reward points for every action that is conducted in a learning environment, including things such as watching educational videos, and playing educational games.

The company’s cloud-based software can also be used to enable merchants to track and reward customers’ purchases and referrals. For customers, the solution does away with traditional loyalty cards and chop cards by having the entire system managed through their mobile phone.
**Comprehensive Design Services (CDS)**

Sector: Clean Tech  
Country: Nigeria  
Affiliation: African Diaspora Marketplace 2012

Chinwe Ohajuruka  
CEO and Managing Director  
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www.cdshousing.com

Comprehensive Design Services is a US and Nigeria-based organization that provides responsive and responsible design, engineering and project management services for sustainable or green and affordable projects. CDS’ most important product, the Passive House Prototype - or PHP - is designed to help Nigeria achieve its Millennium Development Goals. It provides a vehicle for widespread use of renewable energy, clean water, provision of affordable housing and enhancing the beauty and livability of the Nigerian-built environment.

CDS seeks to provide sustainable home ownership opportunities to a large number of the 70% of the working population who spend up to 50% of their annual income on rent in urban cities across Nigeria. The majority of this group is currently excluded from the formal housing sector.

**COR BREVIS (Hydrogen Industrial)**

Sector: Clean Tech  
Country: Bosnia Herzegovina  
Affiliation: Clean Tech Open 2012

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COR BREVIS is a project company established for the development of a patent application for a new fuel (Hydrogen Industrial) in thermal power plants that use coal as a primary fuel source. The goal of the COR BREVIS Company is to initiate innovative and effective solutions that will help preserve the environment and earth’s natural resources.

The company’s product Hydrogen Industrial contributes to global efforts in reducing the harmful effect of greenhouse gases. Hydrogen Industrial will reduce electrical energy production costs in the areas of taxes, transportation, ash remediation, and expensive and unsafe technologies associated with the greenhouse gases problem. The fuel also provides many ecological advantages associated with a reduction of the harmful effects of existing thermal power plants. For example, it will provide a 50% decrease in emissions of greenhouse gases, emission of flying ashes, SO2 emission and acid rains, as well as radioactive elements, mercury, arsenic, and other heavy metals.

**EEZIMOBILE SOLUTIONS (EEZYDEEL)**

Sector: Mobile  
Country: Cote d’Ivoire  
Affiliation: West Africa Startup Boot Camp

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eEzydeel is a comprehensive and interactive platform for mobile m-commerce via SMS. Using a patented algorithm, the platform allows any mobile subscriber (individual or company) to be able to sell or buy a wide variety of goods and services by the simple use of SMS. The platform enables an interactive way to bring together sellers and buyers because the sellers can post their offers to sell goods and services, and the customers may inspect the goods and services they want and get in touch with the seller. The eEzydeel user interface is available in WEB, SMS and paper forms. While the internet penetration rate is less than 10%, eEzydeel SMS capability is accepted by 14M mobile users in Cote d’Ivoire.

**ESKIMI**

Sector: Mobile  
Country: Nigeria  
Affiliation: DEMO Africa

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Eskimi is a mobile social network created to help users meet new people. The solution works on different platforms including regular internet browsers, and mobile phones which have a mobile internet feature. By using Eskimi, anyone can find new connections or keep up with their existing ones in real-time. The company helps users find each other, chat, play games, and exchange photos or videos.

Eskimi also offers mobile mini sites, research possibilities, CPC and CPM advertising to businesses, helping them to have a presence on the mobile internet. With a mobile mini site, users can see a company’s product details and news, and comment, like, or send feedback.

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**Sectror:** Agribusiness  
**Country:** Ghana  
**Affiliation:** West Africa Startup Boot Camp

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www.farmerline.org

The world’s population is projected to reach 9.2 billion by 2050, and food production will need to increase by 70%. Smallholder farmers, who feed one third of humanity, are an important part of addressing food security. Farmerline supports these farmers by providing improved information access, record keeping services and communication pathways for smallholder farmers and agricultural stakeholders.

Farmerline believes improved information sharing between farmers, government extension agents and other stakeholders will encourage the uptake of modern agriculture practices. Farmerline’s mobile-based service opens these communication pathways. Resulting increases in crop quality and yield will raise farmer income, increase farmer autonomy, and address threats to food security. The company will enable farmers to run a profitable farming business, and other agricultural stakeholders to access efficient communication channels with farmers, resulting in more food production.

**Sectror:** Mobile  
**Country:** Kenya  
**Affiliation:** DEMO Africa

**FARMERLINE**

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**Firestring**

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Firestring is a technology company leveraging social architecture to radically enhance knowledge management. The company’s products harness the power of the social web, leveraging its semantic matching technology, knowledge management and content management engines – providing secure, online virtual workspaces for closed networking purposes.

The company’s Enterprise Social Network is easy-to-use, easy-to-train and quick to set up, either on-premise, where security and data confidentiality is a concern, or in-the-cloud. In addition to its Enterprise Social Network, the company’s software greatly enhances knowledge findability through its unique Web 3.0 Social-Semantic Knowledge Management Engine, Serendipity. This technology enables customers to structure their unstructured information, creating semantic metadata automatically from their document repositories and collaborating in real-time.

**Sectror:** ICT  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Affiliation:** DEMO Africa

**FIRESTRING**

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The Dragons’ Den

**FOMOBI**

Jacob Mwema  
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Fomobi is an integrated ICT firm that provides consulting and development services to corporations, NGOs, and governments. Their new application - mTracker – enables motorists and other asset owners to manage the security of their assets in an easy and user-friendly manner. The mTracker app is a menu-driven mobile application that automates tracking functionalities using GPRS technology. It is easy to install and use on even basic phones.

mTracker provides car and fleet owners with real-time location tracking, engine on/off notifications, alarm alerts, fuel analysis, and over-speed alerts. It can also be leveraged by owners of laptops and other devices, allowing them to visually track the location of their property in real-time. The solution provides additional security to owners of assets that may be a target of theft.

**Sectror:** Mobile  
**Country:** Kenya  
**Affiliation:** DEMO Africa

**FOMOBI**

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The Dragons’ Den
Blue collar workers face challenges finding jobs in Africa, typically relying on word of mouth to hear about opportunities, or where are they now and what they think. However they still don’t know what they are going to do tonight, or on the weekend. They still need to call them personally and ask their plans and upcoming activities.

Going to is a social calendar for iPhones organized around a person’s interests. The applicant allows users to follow their friends, favorite artists, celebrities, sports teams, tv shows and see their upcoming activities and events in their calendars. They can find out which concerts are coming up, when the next game will be, or what their friends are doing for the weekend. Users can also see the popular activities during the upcoming days and easily discover what events are hot.

In all the social media tools that are used today, users can learn what the people they follow did yesterday with pictures, or where are they now and what they think. However they still don’t know what they are going to do tonight, or on the weekend. They still need to call them personally and ask their plans and upcoming activities.

In the past few years, Greengar has developed a series of simple, fun, and useful mobile apps for iOS and Android. The company’s most popular apps include Whiteboard, Collaborative Drawing, Brain Tuner, Flashlight, and Color ID. With over 14 million downloads, Greengar apps are among the most popular on the App Store.

Greengar recently joined the 500 Startups Spring 2013 batch in order to build the “Smartboard Platform” -- a toolkit that seamlessly connects mobile devices to enable real-time collaboration. Real-time visual collaboration is expensive and complicated to set up, and people often have difficulty focusing on the speaker and taking notes simultaneously. Greengar enables people to connect and collaborate seamlessly and intuitively, with cross-platform real-time collaboration across at least 100 interconnected devices.
Caribbean artists need a new distribution model for their products to generate revenue. Currently, there is no infrastructure to support new distribution channels. ListenMi will build the technological supply chain infrastructure to enable artists to create content, while giving individual consumers the tools to purchase products and corporate customers a method to repackage creative content for revenue generation. This creates a 360-degree solution at an affordable price for original content production, including audiobooks, ads, creative programming, and original music. The company will also provide content distribution such as In-store radio and TV, and subscription-based live content streaming. ListenMi will link the creative industries to businesses’ bottom line, resulting in companies utilizing the creative class as a source for generating revenue.

Khaya Power is providing renewable energy to those that don’t have access to the National electricity grid in South Africa, providing much needed small and micro business opportunities to people in townships and rural areas. The company has built a mobile battery charging station to charge batteries that Khaya Power rents out to customers. These batteries can be used to power a small business – such as a mobile barber shop, WiFi hotspot with a payment gateway, or cellphone charging station – or be used by households to charge cellphones and power small DC devices. The charging station can run off solar, AC or DC power, providing affordable electricity and lighting at a cost cheaper than existing alternatives. Khaya Power’s solution is a scalable, simple and practical approach to providing power to remote areas quickly and effectively.

For small and informal businesses in Africa opportunities are time-critical (e.g. fisherman with a windfall of fresh fish and inadequate storage facilities), and it’s difficult to quickly spread the word of an opportunity to all possibly interested parties. Tradesmen also typically rely on being able to show their work through physical interaction or photo albums, limiting the size of the market they can efficiently address.

Kuza is a mobile, location-based business platform that provides a solution to these challenges. The platform helps buyers and sellers in emerging markets to trade goods and services in their area. Using any one of 6000 supported types of feature phones, a user can create a website, mobi site and business cards right from his phone in about 5 minutes. Kuza’s micro-ads, also created right from the phone, are broadcast to an audience in the entrepreneurs’ area, allowing them to reach a wider market.

Research has shown that tertiary level students worldwide are failing quantitative based subjects due to their lack of understanding of math concepts and fundamentals. Current eLearning applications may not be ideal for more specialized functionality, interaction, and most importantly, do not treat with the varied learning styles of the students.

Interact XL is an interactive math online application comprising of teaching and learning tools, targeting tertiary level institutions and their students. Functionality includes automatic generation of questions and answers on the fly, built-in virtual teacher, multi-lingual instructions, diverse teaching techniques, social media integration, historical reporting and grading. There will also be a feature called ‘study group’ where students can interact online via videoconferencing and a virtual whiteboard. As the application matures, new learning methods will be developed to accommodate students of different learning styles.
Maliyo Games creates games with localized narratives, characters, environment and sounds to share the experience of everyday Africa with the world. These games are distributed via mobile and web browsers, sharing Africa’s amazing but seemingly insignificant stories with a global audience through gaming and transmedia platforms.

Maliyo Games gives Africans a voice through a medium that cuts across all demographics - age, gender, religion and social class – and is starting important and culturally relevant conversations around key questions the world and even Africans have about Africa. The company is positioned to produce content that can act as an alternative method for education in areas such as primary health and sex education.

Mobilab application is a recently launched verification tool that can be accessed online, through WAP or GPRS-enabled phones. It can be used to ascertain the authenticity of documents, certificates, and title deeds. Mobilab works by sharing data with state agencies like the Kenya Revenue Authority and the Kenya National Examinations Council.

The new application will reduce the security threats that accompany business transactions and make it easier for users to make informed and secure financial decisions. Mobilab is free to download as an Android application and can also be accessed online.

Mobilab makes cell phones safe for children by giving parents the visibility and tools to manage their children’s phone use, and so protect them from harm. Mobilab is a small app that sits on the child’s smartphone or tablet and provides parents - via web dashboard - with information on device use, including contacts, calls and messages sent and received, applications downloaded, websites accessed and so on. It also gives parents the ability to control the device use, whether blocking certain activities, enabling safe web browsing, or limiting the time when certain activities can take place. Location and security services can help parents locate a missing child or device, or lock a missing device. The service is available for Android, BlackBerry and iOS. Mobilab wants children to have all the benefits of a mobile phone, while still staying safe.

Tree-planting projects in developing countries are expensive, particularly when they are undertaken in remote areas. Tree-planting service companies are usually based in central cities and lack technological solutions for distance-monitoring of what is happening with the trees after they are planted.

MicroForester provides a solution that makes small tree-planting projects cheaper and easier-to-monitor. The mobile app allows local people to perform tree planting and watering tasks, and submit photo-reports with attached coordinates and other data, receiving back micro-payments for each fulfilled task. The app will give users access to an online map to see the pictures of newly planted trees, as well as photo-reports of the growing trees, all through their web account.

The new application will reduce the security threats that accompany business transactions and make it easier for users to make informed and secure financial decisions. Mobilab is free to download as an Android application and can also be accessed online.
Mobile Payment Solutions Limited is a software company specializing in payment systems, electronic and mobile commerce. The company’s mission is to use the mobile phone to transform Southern Africa into a cashless economy. By harnessing the efficiency of technology, MPS products are significantly reducing the cost of doing business and fueling economic growth in the region.

MPS has already created UtiliPay Payment Gateway, which allows bills to be presented and paid via mobile phone, internet or ATM, as well as a Mobile Banking Platform, which expands the reach of financial services to mobile phones and allows financial institutions to increase efficiency and expand their geographical reach without high operational costs. MPS is currently working on a Mobile Marketing Platform, which will allow insurance companies to present simple micro-insurance products to the client through a mobile handset.

Unemployment and connectivity are major obstacles in emerging markets, particularly in the informal sector [mechanics, electricians, office helpers, construction workers, factory workers, etc]. MobiTrader is a new platform that seeks to address these challenges, using mobile-enabled technologies to connect informal job seekers with job providers in new and meaningful ways.

MobiTrader connects the right employers and job seekers via the web, mobile apps, SMS and the mobile web. The solution employs advanced algorithms to match the un- and under-employed with income generation opportunities, and uses a unique verification features based on connections via phone and local associations. The platform is aimed towards small, medium and large enterprises looking to hire trustworthy and reliable informal workers within a short period of time.

MS2C is a texting service that matches NGOs, private companies, and public sector opportunities to skill-sets of citizens seeking employment using the short messaging service (SMS) infrastructure. This initiative stands to bridge the startling statistics of a spiraling unemployment level prevalent in Nigeria. Nigerian youths make up 70% of its population with an alarming unemployment rate of over 33%.

The company concentrates its efforts on industry and sectors with the greatest growth potential, such as agriculture, rural health, education, social assistance and private services. MS2C helps to create opportunities for youths by providing an enabling environment for them to build and harness their skills, redefining their possibilities of tapping into the wealth of potentials that surround them.

Many businesses in developing countries do not know who their customers are and cannot track them and engage them in order to ensure future business. In addition, these businesses do not give customers friendly and convenient payment options.

Mpayer is a mobile and web application that enables businesses to manage their payment transactions using both Mobile Money (Mpesa, Airtel Money) and cash. Mpayer helps business owners to manage and view business activities including incomes and expenses, performance of various product/services and customer information. It also helps businesses generate reports on a real time basis through a mobile phone or computer. Through Mpayer, businesses run their operations at the palm of their hands at an affordable cost of as low as 10USD per month.
Qabila is a media content creator that capitalizes on crowdsourcing and digital media to provide clients with cost-effective content that reaches their target audience in an engaging and effective way. Arabic content accounts for only 3% of total content on the web, while 80% of online queries in the Arab region are in Arabic. Qabila enriches the Arabic content on the web through edutainment videos, songs, short movies or shows.

The company bridges the gap between entertainment and the intellectual needs of its target audience. From promotional videos to mass media content, Qabila ensures that the message of its client reaches the target audience effectively, by studying the audience behavior and adopting a crowdsourcing model that actively interacts and engages the audience to better understand them.

People Input is a web and mobile service provider in Africa, providing expertise on the delivery of web and mobile projects, and specifically on aspects such as: strategy, advice, ergonomics, design, technical development, and project management. People Input has branch offices and teams that are based on the ground in Senegal, Mali, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Guinea Conakry, making it possible for the company to work closely together with the marketing and technical teams of their clients and partners. People Input is now in the process of launching the first African App Store, aimed at bringing relevant local Apps to African smartphone owners. The App store will provide free APPs (both Android and iOS) aimed at the African market, supported through banner advertisements.

Many businesses especially in emerging markets face massive loss of productivity as a result of improvising project management on media such as email, document sharing, SMS, skype, and instant messaging. This is not surprising because most project management tools out there are difficult to use, not collaborative, and separate from where the actual project activities take place.

Prowork is a mobile first enterprise class project management and collaboration solution for business. It empowers businesses by bringing together the power of project management and collaboration on one platform and putting it in team members’ hands via mobile. The solution allows teams to collaborate from anywhere, and works for both online and offline scenarios. Prowork allows its users to share documents, group chat across all devices, and track activities and performance as they happen in real time, helping to reduce costs and increase productivity.

The IT industry depends heavily on the well prepared professionals, and there is a growing lack of good IT specialists. Robopartans is addressing this opportunity by developing curriculum, software, processes and certification to help organizations and individuals provide IT education for students.

Robopartans initially started as a “school of robotics” teaching robotics, programming and software development to students from 7 to 19 years old in Sofia - the capital of Bulgaria. It has since expanded to 4 new geographies, formed a certification program, and started the Academies program that expands its network of certified instructors. The company has also started providing robotics lessons online with video, source code, and instructions. It now offers 7 different topics separated in 25 certificates.
SMA KENYA is a business enterprise offering a wide range of services ranging from guest house, medical, media production, car hire, import and sale services. It is now introducing a simple, low-priced domestic fluoride filter aimed at reducing the incidence of fluorosis, which harms tooth enamel. The solution was developed by Dr. Simon Mwangi, a medical doctor with over 20 years experience in a busy practice. The innovative filter uses the same calcium hydroxyapatite crystals that attract fluoride in living human bones to remove fluoride from drinking and cooking water before ingestion.

SkillPod Media is an established online and mobile gaming company, with a growing global user and client base. The company helps its clients setup, integrate, customize and manage a branded, feature-rich and highly configurable gaming solution that adds value to their business in a number of ways. The gaming solutions build a large community of loyal users around a client’s website and brand, creating a targeted audience that can be marketed to. Micro-payment revenue opportunities exist within the games themselves, and with a large, loyal community, the gaming solutions provide profitable advertising opportunities as well. SkillPod Media supplies their online games platform to some of the top publishers in the world.

SmellNat is a startup aimed at producing in-demand oils and bio antioxidants found naturally in abundance in Algeria. In spite of the big potential of Algeria in the production of essential oils, more than 90% of the essential oils commercialized in the market or used in different industries such as pharmaceutical, cosmetics or food industry are imported from Europe or neighborhood countries.

SmellNat specializes in manufacturing organic antioxidants that are in very short supply on the market. The company utilizes energy from solar panels to extract and process essential oils from aromatic and medicinal plants. The process that SmellNat has developed is innovative and eco-friendly as the company processes the oils without using the harsh, conventional chemical solvents.

Access to capital continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing African startups. SliceBiz is a disruptive crowdsourcing web and mobile investment platform. The company’s mission is to unlock a whole new funding market for startups to access finance by creating the framework that will make it easy and appealing for middle class wage earners to invest small amounts of their disposable income into high-growth startups with proven potential to give high return on investment.

The solution SliceBiz is offering is to leverage web/mobile (and offline) platforms to create a connection between startups looking for funding and business-savvy young professionals/middle class looking to invest. The company is working with the long-term vision of seeing a substantial increase in the global pool of investors connected with a new generation of young startup entrepreneurs around the world, helping to unlock growth in the global startup ecosystem.
In Indonesia, the majority of ticket bookings take place offline, resulting in long queues and wasted time. Tiket.com is an online travel and entertainment solution to this problem, providing the ability for customers and businesses to book flight, train, hotel, concert and movie tickets online in one convenient place. The company has 14 methods of payment available, and allows customers without internet access to book by phone. The online platform also includes localized customer services and cross-selling ability, maximizing the benefit to both buyers and sellers.

TeleSkin is a high-tech start-up based in Serbia that develops simple hardware and software to help medical practitioners better diagnose melanomas, skin cancer and skin health non-invasively. Founded in late 2007, TeleSkin is establishing a cutting edge network by partnering with medical clinics and research centers across Serbia to improve patient outcomes and aid in the early diagnosis of melanoma and skin cancer. The company offers an integrated hardware/software solution that it markets to both patients and healthcare providers. The system includes a hand-held Digital Dermoscope, with high-powered magnification capable of visualizing microscopic structures of pigmented skin changes. Used together with skinScan, a mobile application developed by TeleSkin, customers can easily scan moles or skin problems, get an instant analysis, and open a quick referral path to doctors for a second opinion.

T-Files is the first company in Indonesia to develop Marine Current Turbines to harness the power of the ocean currents to generate clean energy. The T-Files turbines replace greenhouse gas emitting diesel generators that are common in Indonesia. The company is a leader in the Indonesia market because it has designed its products to be suitable for Indonesia geographic and infrastructure conditions. The company’s growth strategy includes developing cooperation with marine-based companies, providing consultant service to develop a feasibility study of marine current energy, and promoting the usage of renewable energy to energy stakeholders. By developing renewable energy, the company is reducing the impact of global warming while providing a sustainable energy source for those without energy access.

The combination of high energy cost and low reliability has resulted in lack of electricity for over 95% of Liberia’s population. This is afflicting large and small users of electricity, with terrible impact on businesses. This lack of affordable and reliable electricity is an impediment to the development of the country. TransAtlantic EcoPower Liberia has exclusive territorial rights to an innovative power generation system called the Power Pallet. These generators convert woody biomass to electricity. If the biomass is agricultural waste or process by-product, the Power Pallet system will generate electricity for as low as $0.00 - 0.05/kWh, a fraction of the cost of producing electricity through diesel generators. The technology is also carbon-neutral and non-polluting, and is available in 10kW, 15kW and 20kW sizes to meet the specific needs of the customer.
TurboEoms has exclusive distribution of the innovative and patent pending SkyTwister wind turbines. The electric turbines are designed for smaller installations, and are advantageous due to their higher efficiency. Traditional wind turbines provide energy in a very narrow range, and performance quickly deteriorates for lower and higher speeds. SkyTwister turbines provide energy over a much wider range of wind speeds, and are also noiseless and cheaper than larger installations.

TurboEoms offers a family of turbines that provide the right amount of energy to meet customer needs. The key to SkyTwister’s efficiency is in its unique design, which forces more air through the blades powering the generator. Environmentally friendly and renewable, excess energy produced through SkyTwister turbines can be sold, helping the investment pay for itself in a few years.

TRANSCOEMS

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Trancel provides a next-generation mobile payments platform to serve the unbanked and underbanked populations in the Americas, with a particular focus on US/Caribbean funds transfer. Eighty percent of adults in Jamaica, for example, are "unbanked" or "under-banked". The result: the majority of citizens cannot electronically transmit the small sums they need to live and thrive.

Trancel Limited has developed a mobile electronic transaction platform, called "Transcel/M" that is both carrier and bank neutral. On it, users can send and receive payments, including international remittances, and manage their finances in special e-money accounts regardless of which cellular provider they are on and even if they do not have a conventional bricks-and-mortar bank account. Transcel/M’s adaptive user-oriented design ensures usability among less-educated populations and accessibility on a wide range of devices.

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There are two educational challenges that have been a growing topic of discussion in South African educational circles: Early Childhood Development and Mathematics and Science instruction. The aim of Tugo is to create cost effective educational tools that can address some of these learning challenges through play.

Tugo means “Together U Grow Older” encouraging parents and children to play and learn together, re-enforcing the parent child bond which helps develop both their IQ (Intelligence Quotient) and EI (Emotional Intelligence). The educational toys focus on early childhood development, which contributes to giving a child the best possible opportunity to succeed in school. Good performance in school creates an opportunity for scholars to get into careers that will uplift their lives and contribute towards the economy of their country.

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WEST INDIES RECYCLING (WIR) LIMITED

Sector: Clean Tech
Country: Trinidad and Tobago
Affiliation: CompeteCaribbean

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The formal market for money transfers to Africa is relatively young and faces the challenges typical of emerging markets. The lack of access to credit cards to most Africans and the unavailability of a PayPal or Google Checkout alternative in a number of African countries has also hampered the takeoff of e-commerce in Africa.

The VirtualBank platform is filling this gap by enabling those without bank accounts to make online payments using mobile money. The company also makes it possible for Africans in the Diaspora to use credit cards to remit money to those without bank accounts. By creating a ‘VirtualBank Wallet’ for every one of their users, customers can move money between their mobile money wallet and their ‘VirtualBank Wallet’. VirtualBank is the first company to offer both these services in Zimbabwe, and after proving the business model, plans to roll out the services to other African countries.

WEST INDIES RECYCLING (WIR) LIMITED

With limited available land and diverse ecosystems, Caribbean islands need to keep landfill growth to a minimum and face problems on what to do with their waste. With this challenge in mind, and an eye towards exploring and creating new income streams for island economies, West Indies Recycling (WIR) launched in 2012. The company intends to set up the nation’s first network of recycling depots, earning money by reducing waste.

WIR is focusing initially on industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) clients who have large volumes in narrow-spread locations. Currently the company is in the process of collecting OCC cardboard and PET plastics. WIR takes recyclables at no cost, saving clients money, and promotes them through their marketing as ‘Green Partners’, helping them with their corporate social responsibility targets.
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