

Meet the innovators (part one)



On stage at Innotribe this morning - and all week at Innotribe's satellite FinTech hub (B80) - three of Africa's most promising FinTech startups will be on hand to share their insights about innovation in Africa - and explain their plans for the future. They're the winners of Innotribe's second annual African Startup Challenge, and they bring a wealth of valuable experience to share with Sibos delegates.

The three winners are: South Africa-based Hello Paisa, which provides a low-cost international money-transfer solution for remittances; the peer-to-peer lending platform The Sun Exchange, also from South Africa, which enables investors to fund solar-energy projects globally; and from Cameroon, WeCashUp, a mobile phone-based cross-border payments platform. "The Innotribe startup competition

has been a unique experience. My team and I received everything we need to become a world class startup," says Cedric Atangana, CEO and co-founder, WeCashUp.

Innotribe's African Startup Challenge was held in conjunction with SWIFT's African Regional Conference. Participants received intense coaching and feedback from the Innotribe team before the three winners were selected. The theme of the conference was 'Facing Global Challenges', which made it an ideal place for innovators seeking to drive forward the further economic development of their continent. By coming to Sibos, they are looking to develop their services and models further through discussions with banks and other FinTechs - so don't be shy. (For part two, read Sibos Issues tomorrow) ■

Geneva welcomes back Sibos

Sibos has made its presence felt far beyond Palexpo, with Geneva's famous Jet d'Eau and Mont Blanc Bridge reflecting the conference's return to the Swiss city for the first time since 2002.



Blue team show their Sibos smarts in quiz victory



Michael Mainelli, executive chairman of City of London think-tank Z/Yen Group (left, fists raised), led his team to victory yesterday afternoon in 'A Question of Finance', the second-ever Sibos quiz show.

Hosted for the second year by comedian and PR guru Julia Streets, the quiz took place on the SWIFT stand and saw the two teams, each comprising an academic and two finance professionals, battle it out through eight rounds of questioning.

With questions ranging across a variety of topics - including Switzerland, Sibos, financial affairs and the SWIFT Institute - Mainelli's team took the lead early on and kept ahead despite of a late fight-back from the opposing red team, led by Bruce Weber, dean of the Lerner College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware.

Reflecting the technology innovation seen across the Sibos exhibition floor, 'A question of Finance' featured an upgraded set of buzzers this year, as well as real-time statistical analysis that awarded the fastest trigger finger recognition to Mainelli's team-mate Damien Petit, head of payments operations at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

At the close of play, Mainelli's blue team finished with 65 points, leading Weber's red team with 48 points, thanks both to fast reactions and superior knowledge. To find out the secret of their success, watch them talk about their victory on Sibos TV today. ■

