

10 tech startups to participate in Airbus, GIZ #Africa4Future programme

Airbus and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have announced the top 10 African tech startups that will take part in the latest Airbus Bizlab #Africa4Future accelerator programme.

The top candidates were selected from 314 entries representing 19 African countries that were received when the challenge was opened last October. These were assessed by a panel of Airbus and other independent experts.



Candidates were selected after an open public pitch event in front of experts, potential investors, the media and other stakeholders in Kenya's capital city.

#Africa4Future is a joint business accelerator initiative of Airbus and GIZ's Make-IT in Africa initiative together with the Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST), a non-profit seed fund and pan-African organisation that brings together startups, entrepreneurs and the tech community, and Innocircle, the South African-based innovation consultancy.

Technical, commercial and mentorship activities

The programme aims to encourage and support entrepreneurship in Africa. The continent's young and increasingly techno-savvy population is likely to be the driving force behind Africa's socio-economic development. The competition identifies Africa's own pool of talented entrepreneurs using innovative aerospace-based solutions to tackle the continent's most pressing challenges such as transportation, agriculture and healthcare.

The Nairobi event kicks off an intensive six-month business incubation and accelerator programme involving technical, commercial and mentorship activities in France, Germany and South Africa. This includes workshops and coaching sessions with Airbus experts, GIZ's Make-IT in Africa, MEST and Innocircle coaches.

The programme will culminate with Demo Day events at the biennial Paris International Airshow and a special event in Germany from 19-26 June, when finalists will launch their products, define their collaboration with Airbus and announce their investment commitments in front of representatives from across the aerospace industry.

Finalists include

1. **Astral Aerial (Kenya)** – Uses drones for humanitarian cargo transport, surveillance and emergency response.
2. **Cote d'Ivoire drone (Ivory Coast)** – Locally-manufactured drones for various applications.
3. **Elemental Numerics (South Africa)** – Applies computational fluid dynamics techniques to the design of machines and components, ranging from aircraft to heart valves.
4. **Lentera Limited (Kenya)** – Applies remote sensors to monitor and transmit environmental data to enable more efficient and smarter farming.
5. **Maisha ICT Tech PLC (Ethiopia)** – Deploys locally built drones for delivering medicines, blood and healthcare items to remote and rural areas.
6. **MamaBird (Malawi)** – Provides a platform to help Governments, NGOs and other organisations deliver vital life-saving supplies to remote communities.
7. **Map Action (Mali)** – A solution offering real-time online urban mapping to identify problems affecting water supplies, hygiene and sanitation.
8. **MobiTech Water Solutions (Kenya)** – An online real-time water monitoring solution that allows businesses, homes and water-service providers to manage their available water using an app-based dashboard and instant messaging.
9. **Track Your Build (Nigeria)** – A novel infrastructure management tool for construction and operations.
10. **WiPo Wireless Power (South Africa)** – Offers reliable and convenient wireless power chargers for businesses, conference centres, airports, restaurants and other venues for the charging of mobile devices, laptops and drones.

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