

MEDIA RELEASE**WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2018**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSSIE STARTUPS TAKE HOME PRIZES AT THE 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL TECH INNOVATION EVENT, TECH23.

Sydney, 24 October 2018. The winners of Australia's national celebration of deep tech innovation have been announced, with health, agriculture and IoT technologies among those taking home awards.

Having this year celebrated its tenth anniversary, Tech23 shares the stories of Australians founders who are chipping away at wicked problems using clever tech. Tech23 is an event which helps startups make connections with investors, mentors, customers, and more.

Many of these stories can only come to life because of IP created by Australia's publicly funded R&D organisations and the support of accelerators.

The crowd favourite, taking home this year's Tech23 People's Choice Award, was Brisbane-headquartered **Microba**, who apply a big data approach to microbial genomics, improving gut health. Blake Wills told the Tech23 crowd how Microba have sold thousands of the microbiome testing kits since launching earlier this year.

The Tech23 Innovation Excellence Award went to **Morse Micro**, who are reinventing WiFi for the Internet of Things. Morse Micro's Co-founder Michael De Nil acknowledged the contributions of Radiata's founders – including Neil Weste, who is part of the Morse Micro team, plus David Skellern and Chris Beare, who were in the Tech23 audience.

The winner of Tech23's Greatest Potential Award was **AgriDigital** for their cloud-based, blockchain enabled commodity management platform; designed to simplify the agricultural supply chain.

Tech23 continues to celebrate Australia's female founders, with Kath Hamilton of **loop+**, taking home \$2500 as the recipient of the AMP Amplify Award for the best technology startup founded by a woman. Mallika Robinson of Canberra's **QuestaGame** wins \$5000 cash and \$5000 in kind from Addisons. Off to the UK, thanks to the Australian British Chamber of Commerce and UK Department for International Trade, is **Daisee**, who presented on the enterprise panel.

Tech23 2018 was sponsored by CSIRO, AWS, IAG, Jobs for NSW, Westpac, Addisons, CMCRC, IP Australia, AusIndustry and Cicada Innovations, and supported by Advance, AgileAus, the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, AIIA, the Business Higher Education Round Table, Monash University's The Generator, StartupAUS, Spark Festival, Sydney School of Entrepreneurship, The University of Sydney Innovation Hub and The Warren Centre.

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TECH23 2018 WINNERS

1. **QuestaGame** – The Addison's Award for the Most 'Backable' Team, receiving \$5000 in cash and legal advice to the value of \$5000.
2. **loop+** – The AMP Amplify Award for the Best Technology Startup Founded by a Woman, receiving a \$2500 cash prize.
3. **Inventia Life Science** – The Cicada Innovation Deep Technology Award, receiving \$2000 cash and a complimentary co-working space in the Cicada Innovations Accelerator Hub for two months.
4. **Split Payments** – The CMCRC Market Changing Technologies Award, gaining the opportunity to meet with senior CMCRC leaders.
5. **loop+** – Meeting with Alison Deans, Non-Executive Director and Advisor.
6. **Slyp** – Mentoring session with Craig Dunn, sponsored by Jobs for NSW.
7. **QuestaGame** – The 'Hey Tiger party pack!' provided by Cyan Ta'eed.
8. **Neighbourlytics** – Automatic selection for the next Innovation Bay Founder Dinner.
9. **NextAero** – A one-on-one meeting with IP Group Australia.
10. **NextAero** – The M8 Ventures' Awesomeness Award of a \$500 cash prize, with lunch and mentoring from M8 Ventures VC partners, Alan Jones and Emily Rich.
11. **udrew** – Meeting with Paul Bassat, Co-founder of Square Peg Capital.
12. **udrew** – Stone & Chalk's Think Tank Award, receiving complimentary full day space hire of 'The Vault'.
13. **Daisee** – The Tech Rocketship Award, receiving a week-long trip to the UK to meet with partners and VCs.
14. **QuestaGame** – The Stand Out from the Crowd Award, receiving a free crowdfund raise campaign on the VentureCrowd Platform, reduced commission by 50%, and four hours of consultation with Prime Financial.
15. **QuestaGame** – The SendGrid Growth Marketing Award, receiving \$5000 in SendGrid credits, plus a 1-1 email strategy review with Brendan Yell, founder of ShopFree; plus \$3000 in SendGrid credits to all of the Tech23.
16. **Microba** – The Terindah Friends Award for a team demonstrating exceptional collaborative skills, receiving a case of wine from Terindah Estate.
17. **High Earth Orbit Robotics** – The Westpac Reinventing Financial Services Award, receiving a lunch with Westpac executives.
18. **The Big Crunch** – The AgileAus B2B Enterprise Award, receiving two tickets to the AgileAus19 Conference.
19. **Neighbourlytics** – The Zambesi Knowledge Connect Award, receiving \$1000 credit to access Zambesi programs.
20. **Redback Technologies** – The Deep Dive for Deep Impact Award, receiving access to The Deep Dive two-day leadership experience with Dave Snowden and Simon Wardley.
21. **Morse Micro** – The Tech23 Innovation Excellence Award.
22. **AgriDigital** – The Tech23 Greatest Potential Award.
23. **Microba** – The Tech23 People's Choice Award.
24. **All Tech23 companies** – The Amazon Web Services Award, joining the AWS Activate startup program.

View all Tech23 2018 companies here: tech23.com.au/2018/the-tech23.