

Press RELEASE

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REstore wins Deloitte Technology Fast 50 award GuardSquare winner of the Rising Star 2016

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REstore came out on top in the Deloitte 2016 Technology Fast 50, heading the list of the fifty fastest-growing technology companies in Belgium. In the past four years, Antwerp-based REstore has recorded an impressive 2,294% growth in sales. The Rising Star award was awarded to GuardSquare. A new feature this year was the Business Forum, which took place at The Egg in Brussels. During a busy and well-attended afternoon with a host of keynote speakers and interactive break-out sessions, business founders, CxOs, investors and incubators had the opportunity to exchange ideas with one another. The Fast 50 winners were honoured during an awards ceremony with gala dinner that concluded the day.

REstore wins both Deloitte Technology Fast 50 and Clean Technology category

This year, the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 award went to REstore. Over the past four years, REstore has recorded an impressive 2,294% growth in sales, making it the fastest-growing tech company in Belgium. REstore, which focuses on innovative energy solutions, is seen as a benchmark player in the rapidly developing energy market. During times of power grid overload, high-consumption machinery and equipment in industrial locations and homes is switched off, with financial compensations in return. The company offers smart Demand Response programs to users and cloud-based software to energy companies. These solutions ensured another win in addition to the Fast 50 award, namely the 'Clean Technology' sector prize.

Jan-Willem Rombouts, joint CEO of REstore: *"With a turnover that is more than doubling year-by-year, we are one of the stronger growers - even by Silicon Valley standards. At the beginning of 2016 our new offices in Paris and Düsseldorf opened. The next logical step for us is to explore growth opportunities in the United States. This week we are opening a satellite office in San Francisco."*

Brussels-based Collibra NV and Ghent's Sync Solutions came in second and third, with a growth of 1,610% and 1,538% respectively. For the second successive year, GeoSea NV from Antwerp won the award in the category for 'Most Sustainable Growth'.

Nikolaas Tahon, Managing Partner Deloitte Accountancy *"This year, the amount of entries for the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 increased by more than half. We are also seeing growing numbers of alumni making a return. This is an encouraging sign, showing that entrepreneurship in Belgium's technology sector is becoming sustainable, and can increasingly be seen as a driving force behind our economic growth."*

Two additional industrial sectors acknowledged

Traditionally, the fastest-growing companies from six different sectors are recognised as part of the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Awards. Next to Clean Technology, which was won by Restore as well, awards were granted to the fastest grower in the Software, Communications, Media, Life Sciences, and Hardware sector.

Collibra won the 'Software' award. The company has developed a data management platform that enables business information to be managed and consulted in a transparent, understandable, usable and reliable fashion. Sync Solutions from Ghent, which develops, integrates and implements personalised mobility solutions, emerged as the fastest-growing company in the 'Communications' sector. Ghent-based company Comizzo, a mobile content provider, went home with the award for the 'Media' sector. A third Ghent-based company, ProDigest, was the winner of the 'Life Sciences' award. The company has developed an in-vitro technology platform for producing dynamic simulation models of the gastrointestinal tract. Finally, Caeleste from Diegem, a provider of customised high-end image sensors, was named fastest-growing company in the 'Hardware' sector.

GuardSquare is the Rising Star

For the "Rising Star 2016" award, ten of the most promising companies that have been operating for under five years were nominated. An independent jury, chaired by Duco Sickinghe, CEO of Fortino, assessed the investor pitch from each company based on the scalability of its business concept, overall market potential, management quality and the disruptive power of their innovation. The overall winner is GuardSquare, a company specializing in mobile application security.

Heidi Rakels, GuardSquare CEO: *"We are delighted with this recognition, especially when you consider the strength of the other companies that were in the running. Within an enormously complex domain, we've succeeded in developing a high-quality product. That is how we manage to attract the biggest players from all over the world, and it's also the reason why we, as a young company, are profitable already."*

As winner of the Rising Star award, GuardSquare will be eligible to take part in the Deloitte Innovation Centre Booster Programme. As part of the Booster Programme, a Deloitte mentor will be assigned to GuardSquare, and the company will receive guidance in a whole range of aspects that are vital for enabling the necessary breakthroughs and accompanying growth.

Business Forum

A new feature this year was the Business Forum, which was held prior to the awards ceremony, at The Egg in Brussels. During an inspiring and well-attended afternoon with a host of keynote speakers and interactive break-out sessions, start-ups, fast-growing and innovative tech companies, incubators and accelerators, venture capitalists and trend watchers had the opportunity to exchange ideas with one another. The Fast 50 and Rising Star finalists were all given the opportunity to present their business. Dries Buytaert, founder of Drupal, co-founder of Acquia and winner of the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 in 2014, shared his experiences in the start-up scene with attendees. Vlerick Business School professors Veroniek Collewaert and Xavier Baeten were at the event to present the results of a survey on entrepreneurship.

Nikolaas Tahon, Managing Partner Accountancy at Deloitte Belgium: *"Our aim is to offer all participants the opportunity to build their business relations, share best practices and acquaint themselves with current topics in management, risk management, financing and compliance. By bringing together all this expertise and presenting it at the Business Forum, we are able to create a unique ecosystem in which tech companies, Fast 50 partners and representatives from the world of innovation, technology and investment can share experiences and prepare for growth opportunities. The nearly 300 registered attendees are testament to the immense success of this formula."*

The Deloitte Technology Fast 50 is a competition organised in conjunction with Deloitte Belgium's partners [Fortino](#), [ING](#), [Euronext](#), [De Standaard](#) and [NetSuite](#).



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