

## Press Release

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### **Deloitte announces 2015 Rising Star nominees Increase in number of entries confirms strong start-up culture**

Brussels, 5 November, 2015 – Deloitte Belgium today announced the names of the 10 young technology companies that have been nominated for the 2015 Rising Star award. The Rising Star selection is part of the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 competition and is designed for promising companies that have been active in the technology sector for less than five years. The winner will be announced at the Fast 50 award ceremony which will be held on 18 November, 2015 in Brussels.

More than 55 companies that offer a broad range of B2B and B2C services that respond often to a very recognisable need in the market entered the competition. The biggest concentration of registrations is around the cities of Ghent (34%), Brussels (31%) and Antwerp (12%). The companies were all invited on 29 October to pitch before an internal Deloitte jury, chaired by Duco Sickinghe, CEO Fortino and former CEO Telenet. Following the jury deliberation, 10 Rising Star nominees were selected. To view the complete list of nominees, click [here](#).

These young, promising businesses will pitch again on 18 November, prior to the Fast 50 award ceremony. They will be judged for their growth potential, disruptive innovative acumen, professionalism of their team and scalability of their concept. The jury will again be chaired by Duco Sickinghe and includes distinguished members from the business community:

Duco Sickinghe	CEO Fortino
Veroniek Collewaert	Associate Professor Vlerick Business School
Luc De Mey	CEO Cmosis
Wim De Waele	CEO Eggsplore
Olivier Chapelle	CEO Recticel
Grégroire Dallemagne	CEO EDF Luminus
Rik Vandenberghe	CEO ING Belgium

Nikolaas Tahon, Managing Partner Accountancy: “This year we saw a substantial increase in the number of entries for the Rising Star award, 55 compared to 38 last year. This highlights that the start-up culture in Belgium is strong and growing. These young, promising companies are a great asset to the Belgian economy and we are delighted to put the spotlight on their achievements. We look forward to following their progress and watching them achieve even greater success.”



### **Most Disruptive Innovator**

In addition to selecting the Rising Star, the independent jury will determine the winner of the Most Disruptive Innovator award. This award is presented to the Rising Star nominee that creates a revolution within a specific technology segment.

In the first entirely Belgian edition in 2014, Smappee won the Rising Star award, and The Insiders the prize for Most Disruptive Innovator.

The Deloitte's 2015 Technology Fast 50 competition is being organised in partnership with ING, Euronext, Fortino and De Standaard.

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In Belgium, Deloitte has more than 3,000 employees in 10 locations across the country, serving national and international companies, from small and middle-sized enterprises, to public sector and non-profit organisations. The turnover reached 390 million euros in the financial year 2015.

The Belgian firm is a member of the international group Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, an organisation of independent member firms devoted to excellence in providing professional services and advice.

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