

Deloitte Fast 500

Belgian start-up ecosystem

Local success and global ambition for Belgium's entrepreneurs



NETLOG

Since 2009 some of the most successful start-ups in Belgium have featured in the Deloitte Fast 50 programme. Social network **Netlog** was the first winner, with spectacular growth of **11,285%** in five years. By 2014, co-founders Toon Coppens and Lorenz Bogaert had merged Netlog into online dating site Twoo. With over **100 million users worldwide**, they again succeeded in launching one of the fastest growing online networks.



SHOWPAD

The Rising Star competition picks out companies with the potential to become future leaders. Ghent based IT start-up **Showpad** is one of these, having developed a sales and marketing app enabling sales teams to improve their productivity. The company quickly grew to 65 employees and after expanding **from Ghent to San Francisco**, CEO Pieterjan Bouten announced the opening of a **London office**. In late 2014, the latest investment round for Showpad collected **\$8.5 million**.



NEOSCORES

The Rising Stars highlighted by Fast 50 often achieve recognition through other programmes. Perhaps the most striking example of this is **neoScores**, chosen as the second most promising start-up in the world at the Startup Nations Summit in **Seoul, South Korea**, in 2014. The web-based tool allows musicians to manage and share digital scores.



BUBBLE POST

Another Rising Star candidate, Benjamin Rieder of **Bubble Post**, won the 2015 JCI Award for East Flemish Young Entrepreneur. His ecological transport company has grown, almost overnight, to employ 35 people in five Flemish cities. Bubble Post has raised **€950K** and by 2016 wants to be active in **15 cities in Belgium and the Netherlands**.

Recognition and expansion across the world

The last three years have seen a surge in the growth of Belgian start-ups.

Young companies, often bringing disruptive innovation to the scientific or technology sectors, know that global success comes from swift acquisition of major market share. This means achieving critical mass as soon as possible.



The Deloitte Fast 50 isn't just about encouraging and nurturing entrepreneurship — it's also helping participants to get noticed, both locally and globally. The wealth of ideas and innovation in Belgium right now is exciting and we're looking forward both to watching this year's winners grow, and seeing what exciting talent comes forward for next year's programme.