

Press release

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Teamleader wins Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 award Spott voted Rising Star

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Teamleader came out on top in Deloitte's 2017 Technology Fast 50, the list of the fifty fastest-growing technology companies in Belgium. In the past four years, Ghent-based Teamleader has recorded an impressive 2.097% growth in sales. Spott was named this year's Rising Star. The Fast 50 and Rising Star winners were honoured during the awards ceremony and gala dinner that took place after the Fast 50 Business Forum, the innovation and technology networking event for Belgium's disruptor community.

Teamleader winner of Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 and Software category

With 2.097% growth in sales over the past four years, Teamleader not only took the top spot in the overall Fast 50 ranking, but also received the award for fastest growth in the Software category. Teamleader brings CRM, project management and invoicing together with an intuitive software solution, enabling SMEs to collaborate, organise and build their business.

Jeroen De Wit, CEO of Teamleader: *"Winning Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 is the cherry on the cake of this incredible journey of the past few years. It is also a recognition of our team effort: we wouldn't be where we are right now without our employees, partners and customers. This award is a great honor, but at the same time we realise that it offers a rear-view mirror perspective. If we want to keep bringing value to more European SMEs who want to grow and digitise their business, we have to focus on the future: conquer new countries, innovate our product and strengthen our international team on key positions. That is the next step for us as a company."*

Brussels-based 87 seconds and Ghent-based Showpad came in second and third, with a growth of 1.331% and 989% respectively. Brussels-based Destiny won the award for 'Most Sustainable Growth', which is presented to the Fast 50 contestant that made it into the ranking all of the previous years.

Nikolaas Tahon, Managing Partner Deloitte Private: *"Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 shows that tremendous growth rates are still possible. Year after year the finalists demonstrate great strengths, a consistent strategy implementation and an international business development approach and quality. Belgian entrepreneurs are at the forefront of innovation and play an important role in the economic development of our country. We are proud to be standing alongside them, celebrating their achievements and encouraging their future growth."*

Supplementary award categories

Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 also celebrates the fastest-growing companies in six different sectors. In addition to Software, which was won by Teamleader, awards were presented to the fastest grower in the Hardware, Communications, Media, Life Sciences, and Clean Technology sector.

X-RIS, a company based in Liège specialised in the delivery of digital X-ray devices in NDT and in security, and winner of the Technology Fast 50 in 2015, won the award for fastest grower in the Hardware category. Ghent-based ProDigest, specialists in intestinal research, topped the list for Life Sciences for the second year in a row, while video production agency 87 seconds went home with the award for the Media sector. Flexmail, Genk-based specialists in targeted and personalised email marketing, emerged as the fastest growing company in the Communications sector and the award for Clean Technology went to Borit, a company in Geel that develops metal plates and assemblies for fuel cells and electrolyzers.

For the first time an award was presented to the Most International Fast 50. The winner was determined based on international presence, awards and media attention, as well as the company's product/service having the capabilities to become a leading product/service worldwide. Showpad, a firm that delivers intuitive sales enablement software, received the honour.

Spott is the Rising Star

The Rising Star 2017 was selected from the ten most promising companies that have been in business for less than four years. An independent jury, chaired by Duco Sickinghe, CEO of Fortino, assessed the investor pitch of each company based on the scalability of its business concept, overall market potential, management quality and the disruptive power of its innovation. The overall winner was Spott, a company specialising in making video content more interactive, increasing the monetisation opportunities of content and advertising.

Michel De Wachter, Co-CEO of Spott: *"The Rising Star award is an acknowledgement for all the hard work the team put in. It's thanks to them that we are where we are now. This gives us the energy to perform even better in the future"*. Jonas De Cooman, Co-CEO of Spott, agrees: *"This is the confirmation that we really have some value to add to an ever changing media landscape. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners that have believed in us from the beginning, including Mediaaan, Groupe RTL, VRT, BBDO, IMEC and Microsoft."*

As the recipient of the Rising Star award, Spott will be eligible to take part in the Deloitte Innovation Centre Booster Programme. A Deloitte mentor will be assigned to Spott, and the company will receive guidance in a range of vital business issues to facilitate breakthroughs and the accompanying growth.

Zensor, which provides end to end solutions for civil infrastructure monitoring & analytics (such as wind turbines at sea, bridges and tunnels), was named Most Disruptive Innovator. This award recognises the Rising Star nominee that has developed the most revolutionary concept or product within a specific technology segment.

Business Forum

For the second year in a row, the Fast 50 Business Forum was held prior to the awards ceremony at The Egg in Brussels. The Fast 50 and Rising Star finalists had the opportunity to showcase their products or services at the networking fair. This year the Fast 50 companies were also invited to pitch their businesses to large corporates. In addition to topical breakout sessions, the afternoon programme featured keynote speeches by Mike Phillips, Director at McLaren Applied Technologies, who shared how investing in the Internet of Things got McLaren in pole position, and Vlerick Business School professor Veroniek Collewaert who presented a report that provides a dynamic view on scale-up practices. The event was attended by start-ups, fast-growing and innovative tech companies, incubators and accelerators, venture capitalists, trend watchers and large companies.

"While the awards and celebrating the achievements of the Fast 50 participants is important, Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 is more than a competition," said Nikolaas Tahon. "Our aim is to build a community and offer all of its members the opportunity to build their network, share best practices and deepen their knowledge of business critical topics. Since its launch in 2016, the Fast 50 Business Forum has proven to be an important element of the programme. This year around 230 tech companies, Fast 50 partners and representatives from the world of innovation, technology and investment attended the event to share experiences and prepare for growth opportunities."

The 2017 Belgian Deloitte Technology Fast 50 competition was organised in association with ING, Oracle/Netsuite and Fortino Capital. For more information, visit www.fast50.be

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