PRESS RELEASE

BlockStart 3rd Open Call for SME adopters of blockchain technology – last piloting opportunity

Until November 10th, innovative SMEs willing to adopt blockchain solutions to help grow their businesses can apply to BlockStart's final Acceleration Programme, partner with blockchain developers, and receive €3,000 to validate and pilot blockchain solutions

BlockStart is a pan-European acceleration programme, focused on supporting early-stage blockchain startups from all over the EU and H2020 Associated Countries with the development of their solutions and with the main objective to facilitate goal-oriented, business-focused, and mutually beneficial partnerships between them (as solution providers) and end-user SMEs (as solution adopters).

This 3 stage-immersive acceleration programme (Ideation Kick-off > Prototype > Pilot) manages a fund of €795,000 aimed at financing blockchain technologies in the fields of fintech, ICT and retail, with selected startups receiving up to €20,000 equity-free funding per pilot. After an intense selection and evaluation process, the top 10 blockchain developers from BlockStart's Open Call #3 have been selected to further develop their Minimum Viable Product (MVP) until the end of November this year, with the support of BlockStart. After this, the most promising startups (at least 5) will be selected for the programme's Pilot stage, and partner with innovative SMEs willing to adopt the blockchain-based solutions developed in the scope of the acceleration programme.

The offer

One of the main objectives of BlockStart is to encourage collaboration between end-user SMEs and blockchain specialists, as technology providers, and to promote knowledge about the benefits and opportunities of these technologies. This collaboration is of utmost importance in the Pilot stage of BlockStart's acceleration programme, where startups will have the chance to test their solutions together with end-user SMEs.

SME adopters will benefit from €3,000 equity-free funding and will have the chance to implement blockchain pilot solutions with BlockStart's top startups that have gone through the previously described programme.

Our top 10 startups

Are you a hospitality or a retail business with car parking spaces? Would you like to attract more customers & revenue by offering electric vehicle charging? Then the BlockStart pilot project with **AGEVOLT** will be an amazing opportunity for you to participate. More info here.

BLOCKPULSE is a tokenization-based equity management platform. Through a unique legal and technical approach, our mission is to disrupt the way companies manage their operations and their shareholding today, to become the infrastructure of all the unlisted market tomorrow. By managing financials flows linked to the operations, we can handle the whole legal and financial aspects of the companies' shareholding management in a fully digitalized and automated environment. More info here.

BLOCKTAC fights fake consumer products and data with certificates and single-use digital seals registered with Blockchain technology, designed for brand protection and consumer engagement. With its Blockchain-of-things devices, that communicate directly with IoT sensors, encrypt the data, and store it in a public Blockchain, information becomes trusted and traceable, impossible to change, truly linked to its source. More info here.

SCENTS, from **BLUE ROOM INNOVATION**, allows artists to track a proper exposition of an artwork converting it into an active object, a token, a Smart Contract, that interacts with several channels and expositions, adding constant traceability and value to the creations regardless of its property. If you want to increase the value of digital art and avoid gambling, join SCENTS! More info here.

COMUNITARIA rents rooftops in apartment blocks to produce photovoltaic electricity to be sold in the neighbourhood. The payment of that rental is made in a social local cryptocurrency that flat owners can use to pay for fresh food at the local commerce, therefore, favouring circular economy and local commerce. More info here.

DIGITAL VILLAGE is the first real-time sustainability-focused massive multiplayer online Metaverse connected to its social marketplace and merges the physical and digital world with the use of its social blockchain interface, the Village Protocol, allowing real utility and experiences for Users and supply chains for Digital Assets and NFTs. More info here.

FARDOE's Block Frauds solution combines proprietary Digital Speech DNA AI with the use of blockchain to help insurers compliantly share intelligence on frauds, whilst the AI benefits from wider learning. Insurers benefit from reduced fraud pay-outs and streamlined detection processes, whilst customers benefit from lower premiums and better service. More info here.

Beyond the capabilities of a secured distributed ledger offered by the Blockchain (tamper-proof and immutability of the information), **HODLNG** is using public Blockchain networks to offer LNG stakeholders to create a digital asset associated with a specific volume of natural gas and concrete usages related to the carbon footprint (GHG emissions) of the gas, ESG, and diversion. This solution gives a tangible value to intangible attributes in the gas industry, in the context of the social & environmental impacts of natural gas. More info here.

HOPU supports decisions for environmental assessment and digital transformation through data-powered tools with dashboards, decision support tools and IoT devices. It provides added value via data quality, cost-effective solutions, and services to monitor gases, toxic substances, odours (VOC) and emissions from industry. More info here.

Are you interested in real-time data related to international shipping and transportation, to be used in helping you manage contracts, making them secure and reliable? Thus, avoiding fraud and minimizing losses due to non-performance? Or are you interested in building a reliable ecosystem with your service providers in overseas transportation, based on real-time, secure, and reliable data? Then

try **SHIPNEXT** - the shipping platform that uses AI and blockchain to manage shipping data, digitalize workflows, search freight solutions, and manage shipping contracts. More info here.

On 20 October, 3pm-5pm CET (Brussels Time), BlockStart will organize the webinar "10 blockchain solutions looking for adopters" (**registration here**), aiming to present the blockchain solutions and clarify any doubt that may arise about the startups and the programme.

How to apply

Any European or H2020 Associated Country SME operating in the fields of fintech, ICT and retail is eligible as a participant and should fill in an online application form at the F6S platform. Deadline for applications is **November 10th at 5pm CET (Brussels Time)**.

For more information on application criteria and how to apply, you can go to blockstart.eu/adopters, read carefully our Guidelines for Applicants and consult our FAQ section.

The BlockStart Consortium

BlockStart is run by a team of 3 partners: Bright Pixel, an early-stage VC investor, CIVITTA, a leading innovation management consultancy in the Eastern and Central Europe, and F6S, a global tech founders' community. This project has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

Follow BlockStart on Social Media - Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn -, reach out on Telegram or Slack to keep track of everything that is going on or subscribe to our Newsletter.

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