



News release

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EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2015: Finalists announced

**Finalists selected in the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2015 competition /
15 of the 39 nominees are in the running for an award / Announcement of the winners
and award ceremony on 23 October 2015**

ZURICH, 22 SEPTEMBER 2015 – The Entrepreneur Of The Year competition, which has been held by EY Switzerland every year since 1998, is part of EY's global program for entrepreneurs. In 2015, 39 entrepreneurs qualified for participation, and on 8 September 2015, the jury selected 15 finalists. Here they are:

Trade/Services category:

- ▶ Maxime Ballanfat, NOVAE RESTAURATION SA, Geneva, commercial catering, 683 employees
- ▶ Pascal Meyer, QoQa Services SA, Bussigny, online retail, 43 employees
- ▶ Wim Jan Ouboter, Micro Mobility Systems AG, Küsnacht, mobility, 57 employees

Emerging Entrepreneur category:

- ▶ Stéphane Doutriaux, Poken SA, Lausanne, event technology, 26 employees
- ▶ Pascal Kaufmann/Marc Vontobel, Starmind International AG, Küsnacht, IT, 45 employees
- ▶ Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, InSphero AG, Schlieren, biotechnology, 35 employees

Industry/High Tech/Life Sciences category:

- ▶ Marcel and Roger Baumer, Hälg Holding AG, St. Gallen, ancillary building trade, 890 employees
- ▶ Daniel Bloch, Chocolats Camille Bloch SA, Courtelary, chocolate, 180 employees
- ▶ Hermann Rosen, Rosen Swiss Holding AG, Stans, oil and gas, 2,309 employees

Family Business category:

- ▶ Raphael and Matthias Bachmann, Confiseur Bachmann AG, Lucerne, bakery products, 454 employees
- ▶ Gabriela Manser, Goba AG, Gonten, beverages, 50 employees
- ▶ Dr. Pietro Supino, Tamedia AG, Zurich, media, 3,417 employees

All employee numbers are based on 2014 figures.

These extraordinary entrepreneurs all have the potential to win the coveted EY Entrepreneur Of The Year award, having stood out thanks to their success and innovation, their corporate and social commitment, and their personalities. In the coming weeks, the jury will decide who gets to take home the award in each category on 23 October 2015.

The jury

The qualified, independent jury in charge of evaluating the finalists and awarding the title of Entrepreneur Of The Year comprises: **Bernhard Alpstaeg** (swisspor Management AG, Patron and Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007), **Brigitte Breisacher** (Alpnach Norm-Schränkelemente AG, Owner and Company Director of the Alpnach Norm Group), **Claude R. Cornaz** (Vetropack Holding AG, CEO and Entrepreneur Of The Year 2012), **Dr. Beat Curti** (Entrepreneur), **Dr. Paul J. Hälgi** (Dätwyler Holding AG, CEO), **Edouard Pfister** (Sonceboz SA, Chairman of the Board of Directors), **Sébastien Tondeur** (MCI Group Holding SA, CEO and Entrepreneur Of The Year 2011) and **Prof. Dr. Thomas Zellweger** (University of St. Gallen, Director of the Center for Family Business).

A competition with a global formula

EY is the only organization to stage a global competition for entrepreneurs according to uniform criteria, in 145 cities and 60 countries around the world. In total, over 10,000 entrepreneurs compete for the coveted title of EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ each year. Early next summer, an independent jury will select the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ from among all national winners. In 2015, Switzerland was represented by Otto Hofstetter of Otto Hofstetter AG, who in the previous year had won the national award in the Industry/High Tech/Life Sciences category. 2015 sees the national competition held in Switzerland for the 18th time. The program is supported by Credit Suisse, AMAG, SWISS, Swiss Life, and watchmaker H. Moser & Cie.

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