



PRESS RELEASE

Convenient Translation

## **Wanted: Future Heroes and Team Players**

***Today the kick-off event of the fourth changes.AWARD for the participating student teams took place in the German branch in Ratingen. The winners can look forward to coveted trips in the finals.***

*Ratingen, 29 January 2019*

Teamwork is written in capital letters at changes.AWARD. The student competition is all about writing a business plan as a team around a product idea and presenting it to the jury in the final. Who has the best idea about Society 5.0? And who convinces with their business plan and secures one of the coveted three winning places? All these questions will be answered at the award ceremony on 7 July 2019 during the Cromford Park Festival.

Today was the starting signal for the school competition, which is jointly organized by "Friends and Sponsors of Cromford Industrial Museum e.V." and Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. The participating teams from five schools in Ratingen, Düsseldorf, Heiligenhaus and Essen together with their supervising teachers visited Mitsubishi Electric in Ratingen for an entire day and received interesting information about changes.AWARD. In addition to tips for a successful presentation and the business plan presentation of last year's winners, during which the students could learn a lot for the implementation of their projects, the "Matching Founder Team" workshop in the afternoon was a helpful tool for finding a place within a team of founders. Here the new teams got a good impression of what a successful business plan presentation looks like.

At noon the groups got to know their personal coaches in advance. The experts from Mitsubishi Electric and other leading Ratinger companies will be on hand to help and advise the participants during the project phase. Now the teams start working on their project ideas. In addition to an internship at Mitsubishi Electric, the winning group can also look forward to a trip to Japan this year!

But also the second and third place winners can look forward to great prizes: the winners of the second place will travel to Prague and the third to Dresden.

It was a successful opening event for the fourth changes.AWARD, which will also be held in 2019 under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Minister for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitisation and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.



"It is already important today for tomorrow's society to give young people space for their innovative ideas and projects. So the fourth changes.AWARD also offers our students a great opportunity to get involved," says Wolfgang Küppers, first chairman of "Friends and Sponsors of the Industrial Museum".

**Wolfgang Küppers**

"We want to give students the opportunity to actively shape our future. We are looking forward to fresh and creative ideas again this year," says Georg Jennen, General Manager of the German branch of Mitsubishi Electric.



**Georg Jennen**

The German Branch of Mitsubishi Electric has been training wholesale and foreign trade specialists as well as IT specialists for many years. Since 2016, the company has also been offering a dual course of study in air conditioning systems technology and mechatronics.



**Group photo: All participants of changes.AWARD 2019 met at the German Branch of Mitsubishi Electric in Ratingen**



**Students with teacher (left) & coaches (right)**

### **About Friends and Sponsors of Cromford Industrial Museum.e.V.**

The friends' association was founded in 1993 with the purpose to keep the knowledge about the early industrial development alive. Since then the association links economy and culture in the textile factory Cromford via its high-class board of trustees, which consists of personalities of industry, politics and culture.

Represented by 240 engaged employees the association organizes various activities with focus on the conservation of industrial history on site.

Further information under <http://cromford-ev.de/crom/>

### **About Mitsubishi Electric**

Since almost 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products to both corporate clients and general consumers all over the world, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment as well as air conditioning and heating technology.

With around 142,340 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 41.8 billion US Dollar\* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018.

Our sales offices, research & development centers and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Since 1978, Mitsubishi Electric is represented in Germany as a branch of Mitsubishi Electric Europe. Mitsubishi Electric Europe is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in Tokyo.

\* At an exchange rate of 113 yen to the US dollar, the rate given by the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2018

*For more information visit*

<http://www.MitsubishiElectric.de>

[www.changes-award.de](http://www.changes-award.de)

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