

#### PRESS RELEASE

# Getting a taste of entrepreneurship with the changes.AWARD

How can you successfully realize your own idea? What do you have to consider when founding a company? The today's kick-off event of the changes.AWARD 2017 was a great success. To start the second changes.AWARD all participants met at Mitsubishi Electric's new German Headquarter in Ratingen.

# Ratingen, 01 February 2017

Who as an idea of which a truly sustainable concept can be developed? A simple idea that can make the difference? Which team will convince the jury of its business plan? – who will win the changes.AWARD 2017?

After the successful start of the changes.AWARD last year, the business plan competition goes into its second phase.

Today was the official start: 13 teams from 6 schools in Ratingen and Düsseldorf and their teachers joined the kick-off event at the German Branch of Mitsubishi Electric in Ratingen.

What do I have to consider if I plan to found a company? How can I present the business plan to the jury? The students listened to variedly presentations which will assist them with the realization of their projects. In the morning they also had the chance to meet the jury.

In the afternoon the groups met their personal coaches. The experts from Mitsubishi Electric and other leading companies in Ratingen will support the teams with their knowledge.

Now the 13 teams have to start with their business plans. Besides an internship at Mitsubishi Electric, the winning team can look forward to a journey to Japan this year!

But also for the winners of the second and third place amazing prizes await the team: the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winners will travel to Copenhagen, the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners to Hamburg.

It was a successful kick-off event of the changes.AWARD 2017.



Wolfgang Küppers

"We are very happy that a lot of teams participate in the changes.AWARD 2017. For all participants today was a very motivating start into the project phase in which they will be supported by their coaches", said Wolfgang Küppers, Chairman of "Freunde und Förderer des Industriemuseums Cromford".

"The changes.AWARD goes into its second round. Last year the students thrilled us with their great ideas and presentations. We are sure that this year's participants will present as exciting concepts as in 2016", so Georg Jennen, General Manager of the German Branch of Mitsubishi Electric.



**Georg Jennen** 

By the way, the German Branch of Mitsubishi Electric trains wholesale and international trade as well as IT specialists.

# About Freunde und Förderer des Industriemuseums Cromford 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**

With more than 90 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 135.000 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 38.8 billion US Dollar\* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016.

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, 2016

## For more information visit

http://global.mitsubishielectric.com http://www.MitsubishiElectric.de http://www.changes-award.de

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