



## ECSO and its partners announce European Cybersecurity STARtup Award

*2 July 2020, Brussels, Belgium* – European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), together with Brittany Region and its Pôle d'Excellence Cyber, European Competence Centre for Information Technology Security (eurobits e.V.), secunet Security Networks AG, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, SECURITYMADEIN.LU, Sopra Steria, Systematic Paris-Region, announce the launch of the European Cybersecurity STARtup Award, a new initiative to continue strengthening cybersecurity investment activities in Europe and recognise the next European champions in cybersecurity.

The Award is built around a shared belief that European cybersecurity companies delivering ground-breaking cybersecurity solutions need recognition and investment support to be able to scale up and develop their business in Europe. The Award leverages ECSO Cyber Investors Days, a well-established cybersecurity business matchmaking event, and similar events organised by ECSO's partner organisations to create an initiative recognising the most promising European cybersecurity startups and SMEs.

The Award consist of a series of local competitions and the final contest. The winners of each local event will be selected by the respective local juries according to a set list of criteria provided by ECSO and nominated for the final competition. Local winners will be asked to present their solutions to the European jury, consisting of international investors, CISOs, representatives of large cybersecurity companies, ECSO representatives and cybersecurity experts, which will make the final decision. The winner of the Award will be announced at the final ceremony, organised by ECSO in December 2020.

This year, the local competitions will be held during [Cybersecurity Luxembourg Startup Pathway](#) on 15-16 September (Luxembourg), [Horizon Cyber](#) on 2 October (France), [European Cyber Week](#) on 18 November in Rennes (France), as well as during the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the ECSO [Cyber Investor Days](#), organised together with eurobits e.V. on 1 December in Bochum (Germany).

The winner of the Award and all the finalists will have a unique chance to expand their international network and be recognised among the cybersecurity investors and corporates. In addition to strengthening their international image and making new business contacts, they will have an opportunity to be introduced to acceleration programmes dedicated to cybersecurity.

European Cybersecurity STARtup Award has an ambition to become one of the key European initiatives, alongside ECSO's Cyber Investor Days and its recent proposal to create a European cybersecurity fund-of-funds. These initiatives are dedicated to the consolidation of the still highly fragmented European cybersecurity market and strengthening of its entire cybersecurity ecosystem.

### **About European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO)**

European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO) is a non-for-profit organisation, established in 2016. ECSO unites more than 250 European cybersecurity stakeholders, including large companies, SMEs and startups, research centres, universities, end-users, operators, associations, as well as regional and national administrations. ECSO works with its members and partners to develop a competitive European cybersecurity ecosystem providing trusted cybersecurity solutions and advancing Europe's cybersecurity posture and its technological independence. More information: [www.ecs-org.eu](http://www.ecs-org.eu).

### **About Brittany Region, Pôle d'Excellence Cyber and European Cyber Week**

Pôle d'Excellence Cyber, Brittany Region, French Ministry of the Armed Forces and their partners organize the 5th edition of the European Cyber Week, from November 17th to 19th, 2020. An event of reference for research and innovation, training and recruitment, industrial development in all strategic fields of cyber defence, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, as well as a place for high level sessions dedicated to maritime and health topics, efficient and pleasant networking for all participants, opinion leaders and business companies. More information: [www.european-cyber-week.eu](http://www.european-cyber-week.eu).

### **About European Competence Centre for Information Technology Security (eurobits e.V.)**

eurobits e.V. is a registered association established in 1999. Among its members are scientific institutions, local and global players from the Ruhr Area as well as start-ups – all from the IT security sector. eurobits aims to strengthen international IT security networks, promotes the transfer between research and business and supports the education of new IT security specialists. All these efforts are based on the strong IT security ecosystem as well as the wide expertise of the eurobits members. More information: [www.eurobits.de](http://www.eurobits.de).

### **About Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (SQY)**

Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (SQY) is an Urban Community located in Paris Region and part of the Paris-Saclay Tech cluster, which is one of the eight most innovative clusters in the world according to MIT Tech Review. SQY is a “cyber-valley” with top cyber security companies as well as startups and SMEs that have chosen this territory to develop their activities. The excellence of the training, the ease of finding partners for collaborative innovation projects and the good connections to Paris are its attractiveness factors. More information: [www.saint-quentin-en-yvelines.fr](http://www.saint-quentin-en-yvelines.fr).

### **About secunet Security Networks AG**

secunet is Germany's leading provider for superior IT security, and is security partner of the Federal Republic of Germany. At secunet, more than 600 experts are focused on issues such as cryptography, biometrics, e-government, critical infrastructure and automotive security. secunet's main product portfolio SINA is a joint development with the German Federal Office for Information Security and consists of cryptographic solutions for national and international customers with high security requirements. More information: [www.secunet.com](http://www.secunet.com).

### **About SECURITYMADEIN.LU**

SECURITYMADEIN.LU is the cybersecurity agency of the Ministry of the Economy of Luxembourg. The mission of SECURITYMADEIN.LU is to secure the economy and to promote the cyber sector in coherence with the national cybersecurity strategy. SECURITYMADEIN.LU's structure consists of three different departments providing the following services: Digital Forensics & Incident Response by circl.lu, Governance, Risk & Compliance by cases.lu and Competence & Capacity Building by the Cybersecurity Competence Center (c-3.lu). More information: [www.securitymadein.lu](http://www.securitymadein.lu).

### **About Sopra Steria**

The world is how we shape it. Sopra Steria, a European leader in consulting, digital services and software development, helps its clients drive their digital transformation. With 46,000 employees in 25 countries, the Group places people at the heart of everything it does to build a positive future. Sopra Steria generated revenue of €4.4 billion in 2019. Sopra Steria Group (SOP) is listed on Euronext Paris (Compartment A) - ISIN: FR0000050809. More information: [www.soprasteria.com](http://www.soprasteria.com).



### **About Systematic Paris-Region**

Systematic Paris-Region innovation and technology cluster brings together and promotes an ecosystem of excellence in Deep Tech (Open Source; Digital Trust; Digital Infrastructure and IoT; Digital Engineering; Data Science & AI; Photonics) with 900 members. Systematic connects stakeholders and boosts digital projects through collaborative innovation, SME development, business sourcing, across a range of strategic sectors: energy, telecoms, healthcare, transport, information systems, factory of the future, digital city and security. The cluster promotes the attractiveness of the Paris-Region area. More information: [www.systematic-paris-region.org](http://www.systematic-paris-region.org).

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