

Al-powered language tool LangBot wins Seedstars Ethiopia

By <u>Tom Jackson</u> 23 Aug 2017

LangBot, a gamified and artificial intelligence (AI)-powered language teaching chatbot, has been named the winner of the Ethiopian leg of global early-stage startups competition Seedstars World, earning the chance to pitch at the grand final in Switzerland next year.



Seedstars Ethiopia.

<u>Seedstars World</u>, which is hosting local events across Africa ahead of the global final, has already picked winners in <u>Mozambique</u>, <u>Tunisia</u>, <u>Tanzania</u>, <u>South Africa</u> and <u>Uganda</u>.

<u>LangBot</u> will now join the winners from those countries at the final, where it will pitch for the chance of securing US\$500,000 in equity investment. This came after seven Ethiopian startups pitched to a panel of judges at local innovation hub, <u>iceaddis</u>.

Offline learning startup <u>SRE</u> was second, while on-demand taxi app <u>ZayRide</u> came third. The other startups pitching were individualised teaching platform <u>Mak-Addis Tutors</u>, chat-based money transfer service <u>Meda Messenger</u>, business automation startup <u>SemayDocs</u>, and news provision service <u>smsCrush</u>.

The jury comprised of Marc Lepage, Africa knowledge and innovation advisor at UNDP Ethiopia; Eleni Gabre-Madhin, chief executive officer (CEO) at Ethiopia Commodity Exchange; Shem Asefaw, entrepreneur and angel investor at ShemTECH Ventures; Eyob Tolina, director at Schulze Global; and Fanny Dauchez, associate for Africa at Seedstars World.

Previous years' winners of the Ethiopian edition of Seedstars World have included software development startup AhadooTec, <u>for its e-learning and school management system</u> Fidel; and <u>last year's winner</u> Hulubet – an online events marketplace and aggregator.

For more, visit: https://www.bizcommunity.com