



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Rashena Franklin
713.301.4577

McKenna Parr
832.226.3858
mckenna@griffincq.com

Conrad Challenge Names Top High School Innovators from 2022-2023 Competition *11 student entrepreneurs will receive scholarships and patent assistance to support their innovations as Pete Conrad Scholars*

HOUSTON, TX (April 18, 2023) – The Conrad Foundation recognized the winners of the 2022-2023 [Conrad Challenge](#), one of the world's most highly regarded global STEM innovation and entrepreneurship competitions for high school students. At the Challenge's Innovation Summit hosted by [Space Center Houston](#) in Houston, Texas, four student teams were recognized with the Challenge's top honor of Pete Conrad Scholar, along with four Power Pitch winners.

Aerospace & Aviation

- **Pete Conrad Scholar:** BloomX2FM (California, USA)
- **Power Pitch Winner:** BUZ (Republic of Korea)

Cyber-Technology & Security

- **Pete Conrad Scholar:** Siren (California, USA)
- **Power Pitch Winner:** Neurosole (California, USA)

Energy & Environment

- **Pete Conrad Scholar:** ASK (Texas & California, USA)
- **Power Pitch Winner:** Erilux (Panamá)

Health & Nutrition

- **Pete Conrad Scholar:** UltraGrasp (Virginia, USA)
- **Power Pitch Winner:** Multi-Functional Smart Cane (China)

The annual Innovation Summit, the competition's fourth and final round, serves as the platform for the Challenge's top teams in each category to compete for a variety of prizes and awards, including scholarships, patent support and more. Twenty-five top Finalist teams pitched their innovations to a live panel of judges and met like-minded students from around the world. The event followed the announcement of an expanded partnership between the Conrad Foundation

and Space Center Houston to increase the reach and impact of the global competition, equipping more students to design a sustainable future.

“Our purpose is to ensure that the world has an innovative workforce for the future,” said Nancy Conrad, founder and chair of the Conrad Foundation. “We need critical thinkers to sustain our knowledge-based economy. We provide the launchpad for the next generation to innovate world-changing solutions.”

In September, more than 950 student teams from around the globe registered for the 2022-2023 Conrad Challenge. In November, more than 2,800 individual students advanced to the Innovation Stage, where they worked in teams of 2-5 across oceans and time zones to design viable solutions to global challenges. In January, expert judges reviewed and scored student business plans in the following Challenge categories: Aerospace & Aviation, Cyber-Technology & Security (presented by [Dell Technologies](#)), Energy & Environment, and Health & Nutrition.

“After seeing the caliber of this year’s student innovations, we’re even more thrilled by the opportunity to collaborate with the Conrad Foundation in preparation for the 2023-2024 competition,” said William T. Harris, president and CEO of Space Center Houston. “The mission of the Conrad Challenge is inspiring, and we look forward to seeing the impact these students make on the next generation.”

The 25 Finalist teams that competed this spring came from more than 8 U.S. states and 8 countries. Throughout the Innovation Summit event, students, educators, Challenge alumni, subject matter experts, judges, and corporate sponsors alike were able to network and create friendships that will enhance Conrad’s global community of innovators.

Special Awards

- **Chairman’s Award:** Mollye Edinburgh (Texas, USA)
- **Innovative Teacher Award:** Kat Cooper from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (North Carolina, USA)
- **Alumni Awards:** Mitchell Phelan (Australia), Vyomika Gandhi (Washington, D.C.), Mia Yang (Pennsylvania, USA), Akhil Jariwala (Arizona, USA), Umang Jain (Maryland, USA)
- **Glinsky Expo Exhibit Award for Most Persuasive:** Xena Airspace (Texas, USA & Puerto Rico)
- **Glinsky Expo Exhibit Award for Best Tabletop:** BioWear (North Carolina, USA)
- **Social Media Award:** Team Orbnet (United Kingdom)
- **Summit Engagement Awards:** Bee-Bot (California, USA), UV Shield (North Carolina, USA), Orbnet (United Kingdom)

Learn more about this year’s winners [here](#).

“This year’s Challenge season was one for the record books,” said Kim Boutwell, Conrad Challenge Judge and Product Manager for Dell Technologies. “It was great to return to the annual Innovation Summit once again, not only as a category sponsor of the Conrad Challenge, but also as a Judge. It’s incredible to witness students firsthand as they design and pitch viable solutions for a better future.”

In addition to support from Space Center Houston and Dell Technologies, this year's Innovation Summit was made possible by [America's Navy](#), [Battelle](#), Blue Origin's [Club for the Future](#), and [Fidelity Investments](#). For more information about the Conrad Challenge, visit www.conradchallenge.org.

###

About Space Center Houston

Space Center Houston's shared purpose is to bring people and space closer together. Over 1.1 million visitors and more than 250,000 students and educators visit each year to connect with the significance of space exploration to pursue a path in STEM or follow along as incredible feats of human spaceflight continue to make new discoveries. Space Center Houston is owned by the Manned Space Flight Education 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and generates an annual \$118M economic impact to the Greater Houston area. Space Center Houston is a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Official Visitor Center of NASA Johnson Space Center, and a Certified Autism Center. Learn more at spacecenter.org.

About the Conrad Foundation

The Conrad Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting collaborative, student-centered, real-world, relevant learning that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Through its programs, the Foundation unleashes students' potential to create impactful solutions and a sustainable society for generations to come. For more information about the Conrad Foundation, its Challenge, or the 2022-2023 competition, visit www.conradchallenge.org.