

Press release

Berlin, September 20, 2024

ESMT Demo Day celebrates innovation and startup competition winner

The annual Demo Day, hosted by ESMT Berlin on September 19, once again brought together Europe's brightest entrepreneurial minds from diverse industries. Organized by ESMT's Entrepreneurship Hub, [Vali Berlin](#), this year's event welcomed over 180 guests including early-stage startup founders, investors, corporate leaders, and academic experts. The event provided a dynamic platform for these key players in the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem to exchange ideas, forge connections, and discuss groundbreaking innovation.

A key highlight of the ESMT Demo Day was the highly anticipated startup pitch competition. Selected startups presented their ventures before a panel of distinguished judges and potential investors. The winning startups, [mika AI](#) and [UltiHash](#), impressed the jury with their solutions and exemplified the power of innovation to address pressing real-world challenges. Mika AI offers an AI-powered tax and accounting co-pilot for small businesses, UltiHash is the first data storage to combine high-performance and efficient use of resources, tailored for AI and advanced analytics. Both startups received a prize money of €2,5000 to further their venture. Mika AI was founded by [Agnieszka M. Walorska](#) and UltiHash was founded by [Tom Lüdersdorf](#).

In addition to the pitch competition, the event featured a valuable one-on-one networking session, providing startup founders with the opportunity to connect directly with selected investors and potential partners. This year's Demo Day also introduced a co-founder matching session, designed to connect entrepreneurs with potential co-founders, helping participants build strong, complementary teams.

Previous winners of the competition include Senvo, a last-mile data analytics platform for logistics founded by ESMT MBA graduate Marie Kober, and Optiwisier, AI-powered supply chain planning software by founder Maximilian Koehler, who is an ESMT PhD candidate. These alumni have continued to make significant strides in their respective industries, reflecting the high caliber of startups that emerge from the ESMT community.

Through Demo Day, ESMT Berlin continues to fulfill its mission of bridging the gap between startup founders, investors, and academia, fostering a vibrant and supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem in Berlin.

For more information about ESMT Demo Day, visit the [website](#). More details on the Entrepreneurship Hub at ESMT may be found on the [Vali Berlin website](#).

About ESMT Berlin

ESMT Berlin is a leading global business school with its campus in the heart of Berlin. Founded by 25 global companies, ESMT offers master, MBA, and PhD programs, as well as executive education on its campus in Berlin, in locations around the world, online, and in online blended format. Focusing on leadership, innovation, and analytics, its diverse faculty publishes outstanding research in top academic journals. Additionally, the international business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. ESMT is a non-profit private institution of higher education with the right to grant PhDs and is accredited by AACSB, AMBA,

EQUIS, and ZEvA. It is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion across all its activities and communities. [esmt.berlin](https://www.esmt.berlin)

About the ESMT Demo Day

The ESMT Demo Day is a startup event hosted by Vali Berlin, the entrepreneurship hub at ESMT, where early-stage startups, investors, corporates, and other stakeholders of the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem meet and discuss new ideas. Besides startup pitches, we host panel discussions, keynotes, and fireside chats around the topic of innovation and entrepreneurship to enable connections, networking, and growth for our partners and the ecosystem.

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