

Sustainable surfactants and clean lignin are being selected as German finalists for this year's G-BiB competition

Three student teams from Hamburg, Stuttgart and Aachen, each with an innovative and sustainable business plan, competed on 08 July in the German G-BiB semifinal. The expert jury members Prof. Dr. Detlev Riesner, European business angel and founder of Qiagen, Tobias Faupel, investment manager at the High-Tech Gründerfonds, Achim Roth, leader of the 2nd Chemical Division, and Mustafa Oezbir, biofuels trader, both at Mitsui & CO Deutschland, challenged the teams with questions after their pitch and then discussed to decide, that LignoPure from Hamburg and EBS from Stuttgart will have the chance to win the final award during the international final.



G-BiB semi final teams, jury members and coordinators. © CLIB

LignoPure is extracting lignin from biomass under chemical free conditions and thus producing a high value, multifunctional biopolymer for multiple markets as food, cosmetics and materials. **EBS - Engineering BioSurfactants** will produce biosurfactants from sustainable feedstocks and is targeting the high value cosmetics market at first before expanding the larger surfactant markets. They will be competing with the Belgian team Innovived, producing a sustainable, biodegradable 3D-print filament from waste cigarette butts, on 04 September during the CLIB Networking Day held at the Henkel headquarters in Duesseldorf.

“All three German teams came up with very innovative ideas for bio-based products and gave excellent pitches during the semi finals. I am happy to see the entrepreneurial potential we find in our German universities and I am looking forward to the finals” said Katrin Kriebs, project coordinator of the G-BiB at CLIB.

G-BiB – Global Biobased Businessplan Competition

The G-BiB is an international student competition on business ideas for a biobased product or process. In 2019 it is organized by CLIB in Germany and Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant in Belgium and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Interreg NWE project BioBase4SME. More information on: <https://www.bigc-initiative.eu/gbib.php>

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The BIG-Cluster Initiative

The BIG-Cluster Initiative – formed by ten clusters and networks from the Netherlands, Flanders (Belgium) and North-Rhine Westphalia (Germany) – aims at fostering the bioeconomy in the project region.

CROSSBEE is promoting sustainable economy thinking and entrepreneurship among students and young professionals and thus educating the bioeconomy experts of tomorrow. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

More information can be found on <https://www.bigc-initiative.eu/>.