

P R E S S R E L E A S E

„aws BoB - Best of Biotech“ 2025 – International Start-up Competition Celebrates 25th Anniversary

**aws BoB - Best of Biotech transforms initial ideas into viable business concepts.
Submissions accepted until June 13, 2025.**

Vienna. The renowned start-up competition aws BoB - Best of Biotech is entering its next round! Organized on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy, and Tourism, the competition aims to drive new start-up initiatives within Austria's life science sector. It seeks to identify ideas with strong economic potential and provide targeted support to entrepreneurial talent in research. Managed by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws), BoB was launched in 2000 and has since established itself as a leading platform for innovation. In 2025, the competition will not only celebrate its 11th edition but also mark its 25th anniversary – a special edition for pioneering start-ups!

Expanding Austria's Leading Position in Life Sciences

As the only international competition in the life science sector, aws BoB - Best of Biotech offers researchers and students in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, and digital health the opportunity to develop a viable business concept and compete with other innovative projects. Exciting prizes worth a total of €32,000, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, Takeda, and Erste Bank, as well as free tickets to key industry events such as BIO-Europe 2025 in Vienna or MedTech Forum 2026, await the winners.

Submissions Open Until June 13, 2025

The competition seeks the best projects in four equally ranked categories. From April 1 to June 13, 2025, teams can submit their annotated pitch decks in the following categories: "Best Biotech Ideator", "Best Biotech Start-up", "Best MedTech Ideator" and "Best MedTech Start-up". The "Ideator" categories are designed for early-stage business ideas and pre-foundation projects, while the "Start-up" categories are open to young companies up to three years after their founding. Finalist teams in each category will receive individual coaching to prepare for their final pitch in front of an esteemed international jury. The award ceremony will take place on October 14, 2025.

Participants benefit right from submission: In addition to gaining access to tailored training videos, all applicants receive in-depth feedback on their ideas, helping them develop a solid business concept – the foundation of every successful company.

aws BoB - Best of Biotech is an essential part of aws LISA, a program through which aws has been supporting Austria's life science sector for over 20 years, creating optimal conditions for this future-driven industry. Start-ups, particularly in their early stages, receive funding through deep-tech financing programs such as aws Preseed and aws Seedfinancing. This financial support is complemented by advisory services, including guidance on innovation protection. Additionally, aws

LISA serves as an umbrella brand for Austria's regional life science clusters, enhancing international competitiveness and increasing global visibility.

173 Start-ups Launched Through aws BoB - Best of Biotech

The track record of past years shows, aws BoB - Best of Biotech is not only one of the most important life science competitions in Europe but also significantly strengthens Austria as a business location. Of around 550 submitted projects, 173 start-ups have already been founded. This demonstrates that targeted funding programs and competitions effectively support innovation and provide long-term business success.

The online submission tool allows participants from around the world to join easily. Get involved and submit your project at: www.bestofbiotech.at

About Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws):

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws) is the Austrian promotional bank. It supports companies in implementing their innovative projects - from the initial idea to market success - by providing low-interest loans, guarantees, grants, and equity capital. aws also offers advice and support regarding the protection and commercialization of intellectual property. In addition, specific information, consulting, service, and support offerings are provided for start-ups, existing businesses, and companies looking to expand.

Contact

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH
Project Manager, Deep Technologies
Liesa Doppler
T +43 1 501 75 396
E l.doppler@aws.at