



At the INPHO Venture Summit, it is all about supporting entrepreneurs

For its 7th Edition, INPHO organized by Alpha-RLH has placed Bordeaux and deep tech at the heart of the new digital world imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite such constraints, it has been a great success.

With more than 315 executives joining from the USA, Europe and Asia to meet 2 hours a day, 2 days a week for 4 weeks, INPHO can be summarized in these key figures: 18 keynotes and panelists, 27 investors introducing their investment theses, 26 selected start-ups from Seed to Series C currently raising more than 145M€.

INPHO goes beyond figures naturally through its design by investors who challenge how deep tech can address the biggest challenges ahead of us. The welcome keynote by Geoffrey Moore, the world-renowned disruption expert and author, sets the tone by defining the upcoming different disruption waves and respective drivers. To quote George Ugras, the INPHO Venture Summit Chairman and AV8 General Manager and Founder, "the question is what industries will not be disrupted by deep tech and AI in the coming years ? And the answer is: none". All industries are indeed expected to be impacted by the expansion of AI adoption and a higher level of systems autonomy. With such evolutions, data will more and more become the new oil, data ownership will give increased power to organizations but also a higher level of responsibility, as explained by Mireille Helou, CEO of Orange Silicon Valley who is expecting new distributive schemes on data value.

In such a context, private investors and corporates who took part in the INPHO Venture Summit are expecting AI and deep tech related start-ups to impact all industrial fields by delivering a greater level of efficiency and productivity while addressing "value trap" with new value propositions and new business models. T.M. Ravi, General Manager and Founder of The Hive, a successful serial entrepreneur made it clear the "large corporates will have to disrupt with AI or they will be disrupted by fast moving companies".

In addition, Geoffrey Moore and Vincent Saubestre, CEO & President of Total EP Research & Technology USA, shared a strong message on positive impact on the environment for sustainability. It won't be a differentiator but a requirement for the market adoption of new solutions.

The picture painted by the keynote speakers and panelists might suggest a euphoria for new technologies. But deep analysis motivates such enthusiasm expressed by key executives who joined INPHO 2020. In the current and unprecedented pandemic situation, the health field is a good illustration of the value expected to be brought by new technologies. "When you think about the level of randomness nowadays in health treatments, as illustrated in cancer but also in the COVID-19 situation, AI and Machine Learning are expected to drastically improve healthcare efficiency" said George Ugras. And actually, François Cremieux, Deputy CEO of APHP, the largest hospital group in Europe, illustrated very well such a need by mentioning that "despite the interest, today in hospitals, AI only accounts for maybe 1% of activities".



The current COVID-19 sanitary and economic crisis is accelerating the ongoing evolution towards digitalization for better decision-making process in all industrial fields, but is also reinforcing the awareness of new social behaviors driven by the Millennial generation.

INPHO has highlighted that the entry into new paradigms is accelerating. AI and all deep tech delivering relevant data are expected to bring high differentiation. It is a great playground for entrepreneurs to grow new businesses. And INPHO is all about entrepreneurs, to encourage, support and invest, for them to become the new champions bringing disruptive solutions that positively shape the future. This year again, the INPHO Editorial Committee organized the INPHO Award and selected 22 promising companies for their high differentiation and value potential. The INPHO Editorial Committee for 2020 was composed of George Ugras, Managing Director at AV8 Ventures, Aymerik Renard, General Partner at Hardware Club, Eric Benhamou, Founder at Benhamou Global Ventures, François Tison, General Partner at 360 Capital Partner, Christian Reitberger, Partner at Btov Partners, Jean-Gabriel Boinot-Tramoni, Associate at Quantonation, Dieter Kraft, Managing Director at TRUMPF Venture and Paul Thurk, Managing Director at Arch Ventures.

The panel was broad including robotics solutions in food with Blendid and recycling industry with Everestlabs and Lidbot as well as a new player in delivery with Flytrex and its drones fleet management. Next generation manufacturing has been a recurring topic for the 4 weeks of INPHO and 2 start-ups, Coretigo and Cogito Instruments, were selected due to their high differentiation in this field. INPHO also selected start-ups operating circular economy with Circular and Gelatex. Quantum computing and AI chips were also identified as key bankable topics with the selection of MEMCPU and Applied Brain Research. Terahertz technologies joined as well the INPHO selection with the presence of Terakalis and its online material monitoring. Photonics is always a strong topic of interest illustrated by the participation of Effect Photonics, the winner of INPHO 2014. The company was at seed level at that time and closed its first investment round after INPHO 2014. Now, Effect Photonics is currently raising 35M€ to support the ramp up of its chip commercialization.

All companies selected to join INPHO 2020 are listed on INPHO website for more information: www.inpho-ventures.com

Hervé Floch, CEO of Alpha-RLH, the French Photonics and Microwave cluster, and George Ugras The INPHO Chairman were very pleased to present the INPHO 2020 Award to NVision. NVision enhances the MRI signal of metabolites by x10 000, making them and their biological pathways visible to MRI scans. NVision allows molecular imaging with quantum enhanced MRI agents. This very promising company will lead to step-changes in precision medicine.

We can give credit to the immense success of INPHO 2020 to Alpha-RLH and its partners CEA and SEML Route des Lasers and BLUMORPHO in running INPHO digitally by attracting high-level executives to take part in the Summit as well as providing a platform for promising start-ups. The digital experience of 2020 is proof that INPHO looks forward and takes on disruptive challenges and this resonates through the investors and entrepreneurs that join.

Let's all look to the future where your rendez-vous to INPHO 2022 will return to Bordeaux. It will be the highlight of the year where you can meet in person and share a fine glass of wine to celebrate deep tech innovation, investment and entrepreneurship.





For more information about INPHO this year or the upcoming event in 2022, please contact Audrey DURAND (a.durand@alpha-rlh.com) and she will be able to help. See you then!



The ALPHA - Route des Lasers & des Hyperfréquences® (ALPHA-RLH) competitiveness cluster works with companies and laboratories in setting up, evaluating and funding innovative projects.

The cluster is based in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region (Bordeaux, Limoges and La Rochelle) and brings together talents in Photonics and Microwave technologies. It facilitates progress and innovation at the service of the economic development.

It is based on six Strategic Fields of Activity and one Cross-Disciplinary Field of Activity.

ALPHA-RLH is structured around two key Strategic Fields of Activity: Photonics-Lasers (laser sources and procedures, optical components, instrumentation) and Microwaves-Electronics (integrated circuits, radiocommunication systems, radar systems), with the support of digital tools (Digital Solutions & the Factory of the Future Cross-Disciplinary Field of Activity), and promotes the notion of collaborative innovation for the purposes of four markets (applied Strategic Fields of Activity):

- Health (Medical Devices and Autonomy) : techniques for imaging, diagnosis and treatment, technological solutions for people suffering from a loss of autonomy
- Communications-Security : components or systems for data transfer, data and network security
- Aeronautics-Space-Defense : embedded optic/optronic systems, innovative solutions for making materials, communication, navigation, lighting
- Energy-Smart Buildings : solar technologies, lighting solutions, energy efficiency, energy storage, communicating or connected devices for buildings.