

The Final event of the "Innovation Challenge for Circular Economy | Startup Challenge" was held end of March 2021 and has seen 3 Startups be awarded as winners

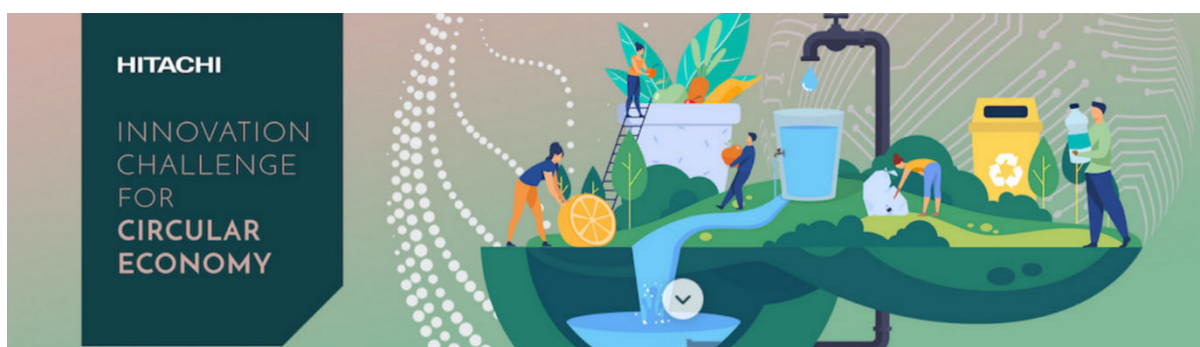
Tokyo, Japan, April 16, 2021 --- Hitachi, Ltd. ("Hitachi") announced that its Water & Environment Business Unit held the "Innovation Challenge for Circular Economy - Startup Challenge" to recruit business ideas from startup companies in collaboration with the Corporate Venturing Office within Hitachi and Agorize Japan (headquartered in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo; Ryota Nakazawa, Country Manager; "Agorize Japan"), which provides a global open innovation platform. Specifically, under the concept of "Creating a better future for the next generation through collaboration with startup companies around the world," we recruited collaborative partners based on the following three themes.

- Creating a zero-waste society
- Reducing food waste in Southeast Asia
- Ensuring the sustainability of water resources

107 startup companies (44 countries) applied to this challenge, out of which 26 passed the first stage examination and were mentored by experts from Hitachi. The 8 finalist startups that passed the second stage examination were made to present their projects during the online final event. The business ideas of three start-up companies were selected as Winners after having been evaluated by Judges from Hitachi's top management.

The Water & Environment Business Unit in Hitachi is currently considering the next steps to work with the three-winning startups to develop synergy with Hitachi's business.


The Water & Environment Business Unit in Hitachi will continue to organize open innovation challenges in the future with the goal to solve social challenges by developing the circular economy.





**Innovation Challenge for
Circular Economy | Startup
Challenge**

■ Selected 3 Start-up companies of the "Innovation Challenge for Circular Economy | Startup Challenge"

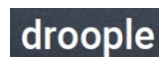


Company name	Lanza Tech	
URL	https://www.lanzatech.com/	
Proposal	Successfully commercialized biogas fermentation technology to produce fuel and chemical materials from waste.	

Company name	WASE	
URL	https://wase.co.uk/	
Proposal	The use of an electrolytic methane bacterial reaction layer (EMR), which is more efficient than an anaerobic digester. We have developed a container-type food waste recycling (energy conversion) facility using an electrolytic methane bacterial reaction layer (EMR) that is more efficient than anaerobic digesters.	

Company name	WILDFIRE	
URL	https://www.wildfireenergy.com.au/	
Proposal	Developed a technology and equipment for producing energy and hydrogen from solid waste using a unique technology called Moving Oxidant Injection.	

■ (reference) Other finalist 5 Start-up companies of the "Innovation Challenge for Circular Economy | Startup Challenge"



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