

Green City Solutions is the most innovative proptech startup in the world

- **Berlin Startup wins PropTech Innovation Award 2017 by Union Investment and GTEC**
- **Interdisciplinary jury selected out of over 200 applications from 46 countries**

Berlin, May 18 2017 – Green City Solutions is the most innovative proptech startup in the world. The young company has been selected yesterday at the PropTech Award Ceremony in Berlin. The prize was awarded by Union Investment and the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC). Its goal is to support startups that give new impulses to the real estate industry with their innovative ideas.

The decision was made by an interdisciplinary jury after the eight finalists presented their ideas and products in front of a live audience. They made the shortlist out of a field of more than 200 applications from 46 countries. Green City Solutions convinced the jury and the audience. The startup won the First Prize, as well as the Community Prize. The company was founded in 2014 and develops smart solutions in the field of environmental services, CleanTech and sustainable urban planning for greener and more liveable cities. A team of experts from architecture, mechanical engineering, informatics and biology develops smart solutions in the field of environmental services, CleanTech and sustainable urban planning for greener and more liveable cities.

The Second Prize went to Architrave. The Berlin startup provides a digital real estate management solution through a centralized platform for all management and operational tasks concerning data, documents and processes.

The three winning teams will get a total prize money of 35.000 Euro. On top of this, they will get a space at the GTEC Lab. This means free office space and access to the GTEC network of mentors and investors, as well as to the GTEC Partners, especially Union Investment.

“We are offering the PropTech Innovation Award to identify potentially disrupting business models for the real estate industry. The applications and ultimately the winners showed us what exciting changes our industry is undergoing”, says Jörn Stobbe, jury member and Managing Director of Union Investment Real Estate, Hamburg. “We want to continue to inspire more innovative startups to come to us with their ideas and business models; that’s why we will offer the PropTech Innovation Award again next year.”

In his keynote, Ragnar Lifthrasir, founder of the International Blockchain Real Estate Association, spoke about PropTech and its big potential and about blockchain in the real estate business. Besides the live pitches and the award ceremony itself, a high-class panel discussion illuminated the changes that old industries are undergoing because of digitisation. It became clear that digitisation will not adapt to the old industry but revolutionise it. The biggest drive of this revolution are data and their purposeful usage. The industry should work closely with the new companies, as well as other partners like universities and science institutes. On the panel were Jörn Stobbe, MD of Union Investment; Christian Schulz-

Wulkow, MD of Ernst&Young Real Estate; Dr. Dirk Hecker, MD of Fraunhofer Allianz Big Data; Prof. Wolfgang Schäfers, Dean of the department of real estate management at the International Real Estate Business School. They all were also members of the jury. The other jury members were Ron Hillmann, MD BVP Berlin Venture Partners; Jan Thomas, Herausgeber des Startup-Magazins Berlin Valley; and Benjamin Rohé, Managing Director of GTEC.

Please find more informations at: <http://gtec.berlin/proptech2017/>

Please find pictures here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B76cqeUzoqvQOXRvcDJNVXpxR0U>

About Union Investment Real Estate GmbH

Union Investment is one of the leading real estate investment managers in Europe. Our offering is comprised of open real estate general and special funds as well as service- and bundle mandated with a total volume of over 32 billion Euro. With a transactional volume of 4.6 billion Euro in 2016, Union Investment was once again one of the most active investment players in the market.

Union Investment is promoting digitisation in different areas of activity like the automation of business processes and smart analytics. To exploit the big potential to expand and develop the business model, Union Investment is cooperating with companies such as the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) in Berlin.

About GTEC

The German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) is the first private-sector, open campus for technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe and it is connecting an international network of companies, universities, and startups along with the public. GTEC was founded in Berlin in 2015 and is supported by ESMT, Globumbus, Henkel, Innogy, Noerr, Sigmund Kiener Stiftung, Tishman Speyer and Union Investment.

GTEC has campuses in Berlin and Frankfurt/ Main. Under the triad of “Inspire, Guide, Grow”, it promotes entrepreneurship on a global scale through a diverse set of offerings: from education programmes and innovation awards to meetups and workshops.

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