

iSTANBUL  
**take off**

# POST EVENT REPORT

2023

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# — TURKISH TECHNOLOGY TEAM —

Guided by the aspiration to build a thriving nation powered by skilled human resources and local technological innovation, we have embarked on enhancing the capabilities within Türkiye's startup ecosystem by collaborating with the partner organizations and individuals across EMEA and beyond. This commitment is embodied in our projects like TEKNOFEST Aerospace and Technology Festival, Take Off Startup Summit, Deneyap Technology Workshops, Bilim Türkiye, and T3 Startup Center. Additionally, we extend scholarships and various incentives to students and teams engaged, further contributing to their personal and professional development in science, technology, and related fields.

## WITH A GOAL OF TÜRKİYE THAT DEVELOPS TECHNOLOGY

Take Off is organized within TEKNOFEST, which is the largest aerospace and technology festival in the world. TEKNOFEST has been organized since 2018 in order to arouse interest and curiosity of people, from all walks of life, in science and technology in collaboration with organizations that play a critical role in developing technology and under the stewardship of the Turkish Technology Team Foundation and Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye. As T3 Startup Center, we provide investment to startups and train young people. In this context, a special TEKNOFEST Startup Program is organized for teams at university level and above who participated in the competitions held within TEKNOFEST between 2018 and 2023 and made it to the finals, under the execution of T3 Startup Center. Thus, a total of 3 million TRY financial support was provided to 24 startups in the 1st term of TEKNOFEST Startup Program, which we launched in 2022, and 3.6 million TRY financial grant was provided to 16 startups in the 2nd Term. Moreover, we provide technology training to middle and high school students within the scope of Deneyap Technology Workshops. At the Turkish Technology Team Foundation, we enable children of various ages to engage with and enhance their skills in science and technology through initiatives like "Bilim Türkiye" and "Keşif Kampüsü." As the Turkish Technology Team Foundation, we aim to realize the National Technology Initiative in all fields by training young people who can compete with the world in science and technology.

## WE AIM TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE WITH THE PROJECTS AND STUDIES WE ARE CARRYING OUT.

# -TAKE OFF STARTUP SUMMIT-



Take Off has rapidly developed into a distinguished startup event, attracting over a total of 800 startups from multiple countries, engaging with more than 170 eminent speakers, and drawing in investors and experts from prestigious organizations in the past 6 years.



As Take Off, we are committed to cultivating a dynamic regional entrepreneurial ecosystem that fosters synergy among diverse participants and their collective expertise. This platform allows startups to engage with established entities, gain insights from success stories, panels and keynotes, receive mentorship, participate in investment meetings, and crucially showcase their innovations. Furthermore, it affords investors the opportunity to explore pioneering solutions presented by startups from across the world.

# PREVIOUS YEARS



## 2018 İstanbul

Inaugurated in September 20-23, 2018, at Istanbul Airport, Take Off Startup Summit witnessed an impressive debut. Receiving over 1,000 applications from more than 100 countries, the summit hosted 200 international startups as well as hosting 60 esteemed speakers and panelists. It culminated in rewarding the top 10 domestic startups with a comprehensive 10-day boot camp in San Francisco, while the top 15 international startups received financial incentives and comprehensive support to move their startup to Türkiye.

## 2019 İstanbul

Take Off 2019 saw a surge in applications surpassing the 1,000 threshold, receiving applications from over 100 nations. The summit, hosted at Atatürk Airport from September 16-19, 200 startups, supported by 100 mentors, 4 keynote speakers, and 8 panelists. The summit's conclusion saw the top 15 local startups receive an immersive 10-day boot camp in San Francisco, while the leading 15 international startups were granted financial awards and assistance to establish operations in Türkiye.



## 2021 İstanbul

In 2021, Take Off Istanbul attracted over 900 startup applications from more than 80 countries, alongside 156 mentor applications from over 30 countries. The event, hosted at Atatürk Airport from September 20-22, featured 99 startups, 46 mentors, and 36 supporting institutions from 33 countries, with a 64% multinational participation rate. The top three startups were awarded \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively, demonstrating the summit's commitment to fostering regional entrepreneurial talent.

## 2022 Baku

Take Off Startup Summit's first destination abroad became Azerbaijan. The summit received 292 startup applications from 32 countries. Take Off Baku hosted 141 entrepreneurs, 20 speakers, 28 corporate experts, 21 investors, and 14 jury members from 22 countries at Crystal Hall between May 26 and 28, 2022. Take Off Baku prizes were \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 for the top three startups.



## 2022 İstanbul

Take Off Istanbul received 944 applications from 62 countries in 2022 and hosted 68 startups, 23 alumni startups, 32 speakers, 61 investors, 32 mentors, and 22 institutions from 18 countries in total. The summit went on at the 5 different zones, listed below, simultaneously. Take Off Istanbul prizes were \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000 for the top three startups.

# TAKE OFF 2023



Take Off has gone through drastic changes in its 6th year. Take Off has been empowered by its 10 sponsors and 30 partners in 2023 as well as its three organizers, growing its impact. Take Off İstanbul attracted 1,252 applications from 43 countries this year. Different from previous years, Take Off has become a platform for startups of various levels such as pre-seed, early-stage, and growth-stage. The summit hosted 184 international startups and offered opportunities for meetings with 43 institutions, over 40 mentors, and more than 76 investors. The comprehensive setup included a main stage, partner booths, and investor lounge, emphasizing its significance as a regional startup hub. Culminating in a remarkable display of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Take Off awarded 26 different startups with 18 different prizes.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## APPLICATION DISTRIBUTION



# PRE TAKE OFF ANKARA & İZMİR



Pre-Take Off, a preliminary event for evaluating Turkish pre-seed and early-stage startups applying to Take Off İstanbul, was inaugurated this year. It took place in Ankara and İzmir as part of the TEKNOFEST Aerospace and Technology Festival. The startups competed in various technology categories, including Barrier-Free Living Technologies, Transportation and Mobility Technologies, Agricultural Technologies, Tourism Technologies, Aerospace And Defense Technologies, Educational Technologies, Environment, Energy and Climate Technologies, Health and Quality Life Technologies, Communication Technologies, Disaster Management Technologies and Game , presenting in category-specific stages.

At Pre-Take Off, each startup pitched on a stage corresponding to their technology category. Within Pre-Take Off, 75,000 TRY monetary prize was awarded to the top pre-seed startups and 150,000 TRY to the leading early-stage startup in each category, totaling 2,100,000 TRY in prizes among 20 startups. The most successful startups at Pre-Take Off gained entry into the Take Off Startup Summit.



# TAKE OFF PRELUDE: A DAY OF INSIGHT AND CONNECTION



Take Off Prelude: A Day of Insight and Connection," offered insights into the Turkish startup ecosystem and valuable networking for investors. The roundtable led by Mr. Cüneyt Selçuk highlighted Türkiye's allure for early-stage investments and sparked a Q&A that deepened understanding among attendees. The evening reception expanded networking opportunities, setting a collaborative tone for the upcoming Take Off İstanbul Startup Summit and promising growth for Turkish startups globally.



# TAKE OFF İSTANBUL

5-6 DECEMBER, 2023



# STARTUP BOOTHS



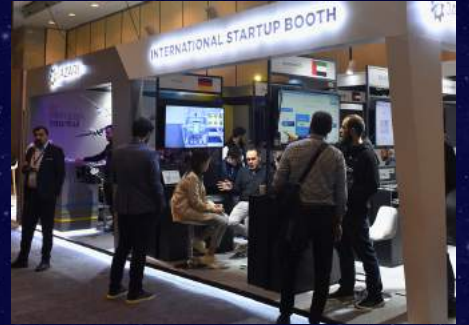
19 growth, 41 early and 38 pre-seed stage startups competed at Take Off Istanbul. Growth and early startups had the opportunity to showcase and pitch their products and services at their booth to over 8,000 visitors, most of whom are entrepreneurship and technology enthusiasts. Total of 1,914 1-1 meetings with 46 mentors and 76 investors took place at the startup booths and investor lounge. The meetings focused on the startups' needs.



# PARTNER BOOTHS

27 organisations exhibited with their booths out of 43 institution. They shared their booths with the startups that they support and fund.

These partner organizations, especially active in entrepreneurial activities in Türkiye, engaged in collaborative discussions with startups for two days.



## STRONGER TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS



# INVESTOR LOUNGE



Coveted figures and stalwarts from the investment sphere graced the Investor Lounge, where more than 70 visionary investors engaged in personalized, one-on-one sessions with enterprising minds. Within this exclusive domain, a symphony of connections unfolded where investors and entrepreneurs forged destinies, bespoke investment sessions sculpted entrepreneurial futures, and networking opportunities intertwined institutions with the maestros of venture funds, all woven together across two impactful days.



# MAIN STAGE



## INSPIRING SPEECHES

30 influential speakers captivated the audience on the main stage, sharing their experiences, visions, and accomplishments to inspire the startup ecosystem throughout the 2 days. They covered a wide array of topics, ranging from artificial intelligence to global finance and technologies, providing invaluable insights to entrepreneurs.



# MAIN STAGE

## STARTUP COMPETITION

On the first day, 10 growth and 10 early-stage startups, selected after the evaluations conducted during one-on-one meetings with mentors and investors, were announced by İrem Bayraktar on the main stage. These chosen startups then presented in front of the jury, competing for the grand prizes.

### PITCHING BY TOP 10 GROWTH STARTUPS



### PITCHING BY TOP 10 EARLY STARTUPS



# SIDE STAGE



Pre-seed startups found chance to pitch their startups on the side stage this year. Additionally, 2 workshops took place on the side stage: Startup101 by Murat Can Demir and Haste slowly by Sadullah Uzun. The side stage also hosted a talkshow with 2 experienced entrepreneurs.



# DECEMBER 5



T3 Foundation Presentation

**Serdar Gürbüz**

Member of the Board of Trustees, T3 Foundation



**PANEL: Woman Shaping The Future**



**Ahu Serter**

Founder, Fark Labs & Arya



Robotics Testing Grounds for Sustainability Robotics Innovation

**Prof. Dr. Mirko Kovac**

Founder and Director, Laboratory of Sustainability Robotics - EMPA



Contact-based Non-destructive Testing through Aerial Robotics

**Dr. Özge Akbulut**

CEO, HighLight Dynamics



The New World Space Order

**Jean-Yves Le Gall**

Former President, the International Astronomical Federation



Responsible Finance and Artificial Intelligence

**Dima Djani**

Group CEO, Hijra



Enabling Tech Future of Central Eurasia

**Inara Valiyeva**

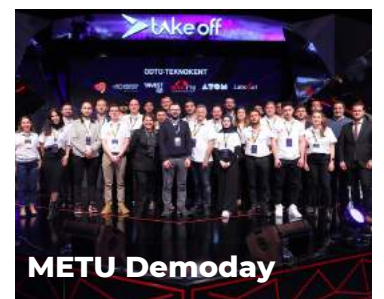
Chairperson, Innovation and Digital Development Agency of Azerbaijan



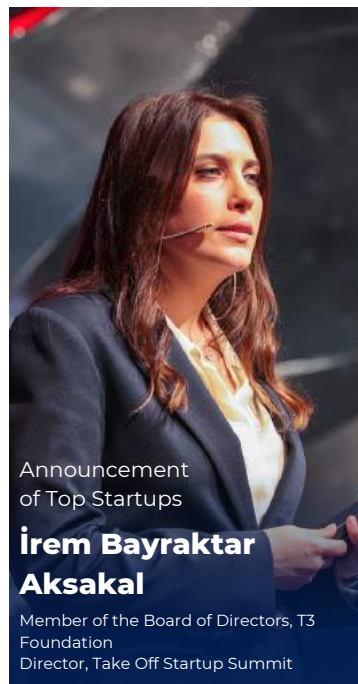
**Top 10 Growth Startups' Pitches**



**Top 10 Early Startups' Pitches**



**METU Demoday**

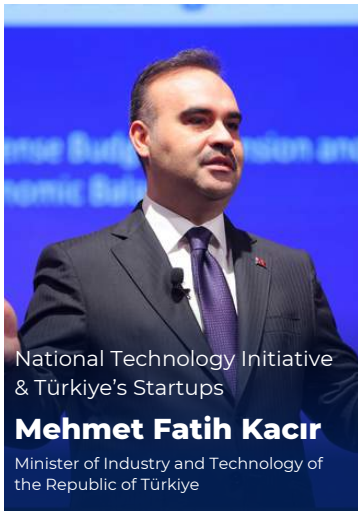


Announcement of Top Startups

**İrem Bayraktar Aksakal**

Member of the Board of Directors, T3 Foundation  
Director, Take Off Startup Summit

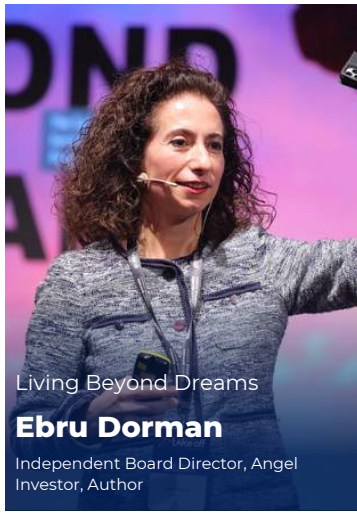




National Technology Initiative  
& Türkiye's Startups

**Mehmet Fatih Kacir**

Minister of Industry and Technology of  
the Republic of Türkiye



Living Beyond Dreams

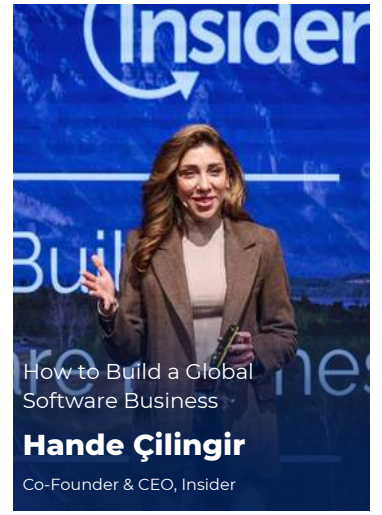
**Ebru Dorman**

Independent Board Director, Angel  
Investor, Author

**DECEMBER 6**



**VC Panel**



How to Build a Global  
Software Business

**Hande Çilingir**

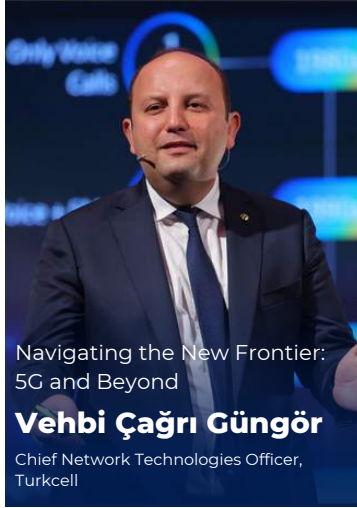
Co-Founder & CEO, Insider



Driving Positive  
Impact via Innovation &  
Entrepreneurship

**Nilhan Onal  
Gökçetekin**

CEO, Hepsiburada



Navigating the New Frontier:  
5G and Beyond

**Vehbi Çağrı Güngör**

Chief Network Technologies Officer,  
Turkcell



**Banu Korgül**

Managing Director, SB  
Startup Investments



**Cenk  
Bayrakdar**

Founding Partner &  
Managing Director,  
Revo Capital



**Murat Onuk**

Managing Partner, Arz  
Portföy



**Kenan Çolpan**

General Partner,  
Boğaziçi Ventures



The Vision of  
Entrepreneurship in the  
Second Century of Türkiye

**Kazım Köseoğlu**

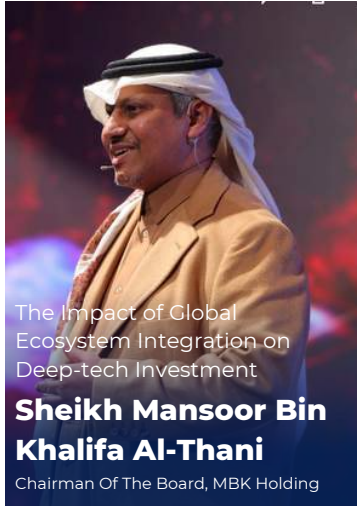
Member of the Board, Esas Holding



Persistence & Optimism: Key  
Elements of Entrepreneurship

**Emre Kenci**

CEO, Papara



The Impact of Global  
Ecosystem Integration on  
Deep-tech Investment

**Sheikh Mansoor Bin  
Khalifa Al-Thani**

Chairman Of The Board, MBK Holding

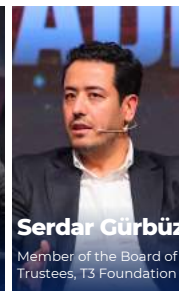


**Game&App Academy**



**Alper Güzel**

General Director of National  
Technology, Republic of  
Türkiye Ministry of Industry  
and Technology



**Serdar Gürbüz**

Member of the Board of  
Trustees, T3 Foundation



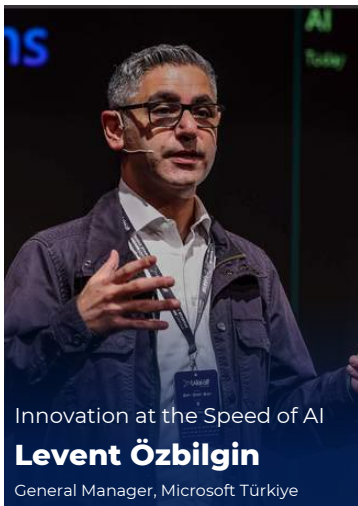
TRANSFORMATION OF  
BEHAVIORAL FUNDAMENTALS  
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Hakan K/  
Hma Sar  
ardımcısı

Double Transformation of  
Behavioral Fundamentals  
for Entrepreneurship

**Prof. Dr. Hakan  
Karataş**

Vice President, Republic of Türkiye of  
Presidency of Defence Industries



Innovation at the Speed of AI

**Levent Özbilgin**

General Manager, Microsoft Türkiye



How to Invest in:  
Better Future

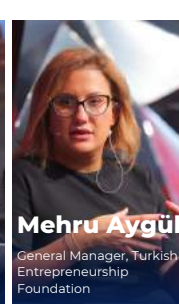
**Ahu Serter**

Founder, Fark Labs & Arya



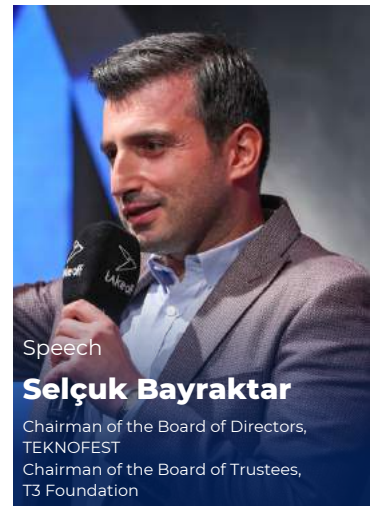
**Mehmet  
Keteloğlu**

Country Director,  
Google



**Mehru Aygül**

General Manager, Turkish  
Entrepreneurship  
Foundation



Speech

**Selçuk Bayraktar**

Chairman of the Board of Directors,  
TEKNOFEST  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
T3 Foundation

## December 6

# PRIZES

At Take Off, 26 startups were awarded with 18 different prizes with the contributions of 15 partner and sponsor organizations. The award ceremony highlighted two growth-stage startups each winning a \$200,000 investment prize. Additionally, the top three early-stage startups shared a total prize of 1 million TRY. More than 10 other prizes, sponsored by partners and sponsors of Take Off 2023, were also awarded. This award ceremony, held on the summit's second day, featured Selçuk Bayraktar, Chairman of T3 Foundation's Board of Trustees.





**Invamar**  
Best Early Stage Startup | ₺500,000  
by ASELSAN



**Hyperever**  
Best Early Stage Startup | ₺300,000  
by ASELSAN



**Salty Energy**  
Best Early Stage Startup | ₺200,000  
by ASELSAN



**Kozalak**  
Best Disaster Management Tech Startup | \$10,000  
by Esas Holding



**From Your Eyes**  
Best Woman Entrepreneur | ₺150,000  
by Ford Otosan



**Venso Cloud**  
Best Startup | ₺100,000  
by Kuveyt Türk Katılım Bankası



**Kodgem**  
Best Startup | CES Experience Prize  
by İSTKA



**HEVI AI**  
Best Startup | Web Summit Qatar Experience Prize  
by İSTKA



## From Your Eyes - Salty Enerji

Best Woman Entrepreneur | Women in Innovation  
by KADEM



## From Your Eyes - Invamar

Best Startup | ARYA ARPC Hızlandırma Programı  
by Fark Labs



## Hyperever

Best Startup | Akademi Programı  
by Bilgiyi Ticarileştirme Merkezi



## Clypp

Best Startup | ITU SEED ACCELERATION PROGRAM  
by İTÜ ARI Teknopark



## ZTech - Kidu

Best Startup | YTU Startup House Hızlandırma Programı  
YTÜ Yıldız Teknopark



## Counterfake

Best Startup | Garaj Ön Hızlandırma Programı  
by Albaraka Garaj Katılım Bankası



## Pivony

Best Startup | Incubation Program  
ICYF



**5D STUDIOS, Akıllı Vale, ChargeMate, DeepScope360, INOPOLYME, Medglanis, PALGAE, PullExo, Tulpar Innovation and Maintenance (TIM), Vertical Farmers**







# ISTANBUL take off

December 5-6, 2023

## ORGANIZERS



**TURKISH  
TECHNOLOGY  
TEAM**



**REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY  
AND TECHNOLOGY**



**PRESIDENCY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
INVESTMENT  
OFFICE**

## MAIN SPONSOR



## PLATIN SPONSOR

**Google**

**hepsiburada**



**trendyol**



## GOLD SPONSOR

**papara**

## BRONZE SPONSOR



## TRANSPORTATION SPONSOR



## MEDIA SPONSOR

**TRT**

## PARTNERS



**aselsan**



**FORD OTOSAN**

**getir**



**KADEM**



**MEXT**



**ODTU-TEKNOKENT**



## MEDIA PARTNERS



**gdh digital**

**HABER  
TÜRK**



**webrazzi**