

CONVERGE

Converge

Awards 2023

Wednesday 4 October

The Old Fruitmarket,
Glasgow

#ConvergeAwards



Welcome!

Hello everyone! It's wonderful to welcome you to this year's Converge Awards, in the stunning surroundings of The Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow.

It's moments like this that I really treasure as we get to celebrate and reward a new generation of university innovators doing brave and remarkable things. People who, by the very act of stepping out into the unknown to realise their dreams, hold the future in their hands.

Helping someone to shoot for the stars is incredibly special and for everyone in the ecosystem who has worked so hard to get our finalists to this point, seeing them recognised at prestigious events like the Converge Awards is a real moment to savour. It's also a great reminder to all of us how much we can achieve when we work together as a collective.

Enjoy the night!



Dr Claudia Cavalluzzo

Executive Director, Converge

Event programme

18.00 Drinks reception on The Old Fruitmarket Balcony

18.45 Claudia Cavalluzzo, Executive Director, Converge
Principal's address by Prof Sir Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh
KickStart Challenge Awards

19.20

🍴 STARTER

Paul Atkinson, Chair of Converge Strategic Advisory Board & Partner, Par Equity
Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade
Create Change Challenge Awards
The Royal Bank of Scotland Award for Female Entrepreneurship
Future Tech Award, sponsored by Cisco

20.10

🍴 MAIN COURSE

IBioIC Award
CENSIS Award
Keynote address by Alison Edgar MBE, author and business coach
Net Zero Challenge Awards

21.35

🍴 DESSERT

Holly Butler, Head of Development, Dxcover
Converge Challenge Awards

22.15

Closing remarks
Networking and cash bar

00.00

Carriages

Check out our Digital Showcase!

Follow [this link](#) to see profiles of our 2023 finalists in our Digital Showcase.

Speakers



Dr Claudia Cavalluzzo Executive Director, Converge

Claudia leads Converge, Scotland's springboard for university-born entrepreneurs. Appointed director in November 2018, Claudia's previous roles include Head of Saltire Fellowship at Entrepreneurial Scotland and Deputy Director at Converge.



Paul Atkinson Partner, Par Equity and Chair of Converge Strategic Advisory Board.

Paul is Chairman of the Par Investor Network, working with other Par colleagues to grow, and diversify the range of individual investors that contribute to our funding mix, skills capability and deal origination across the North of the UK.



Alison Edgar MBE "The Entrepreneur's Godmother"

Alison Edgar MBE is an expert in improving performance inside organisations. Throughout Alison's years advising entrepreneurial businesses, she has discovered important factors that make them successful. Alison takes these lessons on enhancing motivation, communication, and agility and shares them with enterprising businesses.

After gaining her knowledge and experience in the corporate arena for over 25 years, Alison has mentored some of the world's leading entrepreneurs, from start-up to multi-million pound turnover businesses.



Prof Sir Peter Mathieson Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh

Professor Sir Peter Mathieson has been the 35th Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh since February 2018. Peter Mathieson was born and educated in the United Kingdom. He went to a state grammar school in Penzance, Cornwall and was the first member of his family to go to university. He read Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College and qualified with First Class Honours from the University of London in 1983.



Richard Lochhead MSP Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade

Richard has represented the Moray Constituency as a Scottish National Party (SNP) MSP in The Scottish Parliament since 2006. Richard attended Williamwood High School in Clarkston and Central College of Commerce in Glasgow before graduating in Politics from the University of Stirling.



Dr Holly Butler Head of Development, DxCover

Holly Butler was a postdoctoral research student when she co-founded the University of Strathclyde spinout, Dxcover in 2019. Since those early days, the clinical stage diagnostics firm has gone on to secure over £12 million investment to develop a blood test for the early detection of cancers including brain and colorectal cancers. Holly took part in the Converge programme in 2017, ultimately winning the runner-up prize in the Converge Challenge category. Her stellar success has been recognised in a number of high-profile awards including 'Young Entrepreneur of the year 2017' and the Scottish Women's Awards 'Women in Innovation' winner, 2017.

Finalists 2023

Kickstart

Special prizes: £5,000 x2

Runners-up: £7,500 x2

Winner: £10,000



Rory Bone, 4SB Mobility

Glasgow School of Art / University of Glasgow

4SB are designing and manufacturing a small, swappable, 'jerry can' battery for electric vehicles. It attaches to the electric vehicle's main battery, topping it up and giving the user 90 miles extra range. When drained, these battery units can be swapped in 2 minutes.



Gavin Adams, AMJ Tech Consultants

University of Glasgow

CSV Getter for Airtable exports Airtable data in multiple formats with a secure URL. Users can backup and manage data with Make, Zapier, Excel, and Sheets. This flexible tool offers end-to-end encryption, ideal for individuals and businesses



Matteo Cese, CEXAL

University of Edinburgh

We are using novel biosensors to develop rapid test kits to detect pathogens in very small volumes of water.



Ryan Anderson, AllSteady

University of Dundee

AllSteady is creating a uniquely fast and easy-to-use video stabilisation platform to enable everyone to remove shakiness and make their video smooth and cinematic when editing, no matter what camera they use.



Aisha Kasim, Books2Life

Robert Gordon University

Once Upon a Time, children had the best books in the land as words came to life in pictures. We believe this is possible and no dyslexic child should fear reading. Help us put the future of reading in children's hands with our novel app, using AI technology to bring Books2Life.



Leonardo Zussner, Jobvibe.io

University of Glasgow

SaaS HR software tool helping companies attract top talent through video. Create custom videos for vacancies, integrate with existing app forms, and share across social media.

Finalists 2023

Kickstart continued



Kamila Malysz, Excellio Labs
University of Edinburgh

We help unlock your skin's regenerative potential with our stem cell-derived anti-aging cosmetics based on exosomes and collagen. Our cutting-edge formulas harness the power of science and nature to rejuvenate skin and deliver unparalleled results.



Ricardo Moreno Ballesteros, GenProtex
University of Dundee

90% of drug candidates fail clinical trials. Drug discovery is hampered. New tools are needed to fix it. By mimicking the effects of a drug without using a drug, we, GenProtex, can redefine the drug development landscape. Target validation at its best.



Aikaterini Lalatsa, GFibers
University of Strathclyde

Innovative GFiberS technology delivers on-Target Brain therapies and is the future of brain theapeutics. Our nose-to-brain delivery systems allow peptide therapies to bind receptors for effective cures.



Nanik Ramchandani, LastingAsset
Edinburgh Napier University

Stop impersonation scams & increase trust in digital interactions! Our innovative solution uses cutting edge technology to securely verify individuals' identity, ensuring only legitimate representatives communicate with customers. Join us in the fight against financial cybercrime



Thomas Molony, MotionTech
Glasgow Caledonian University

Revolutionising flight simulator technology, with 2 axis of full 360 degree motion, direct VR integration and G-force simulation in the hands of consumers, commercial and defence operators.



Keith Wilcox, Rescue Winch
University of Dundee

Rescue Winch is a paddlesport safety product company. Rescue Winch is developing an innovative winch compatible with current river rescue techniques, increasing the likelihood of successful rescue of trapped people and equipment while reducing risks to the rescuers.

Finalists 2023

Create Change

Runner-up: £10,000 x2

£3,250 in-kind support x2

Winner: £30,000

Plus £9,750 in-kind support



Rosemary Bristow,
Fantasy Fibre Mill
Heriot-Watt University

Field to Fabric: Our Micro-Mills enable hyper-local, transparent, climate beneficial yarn and fabric production



Fairouz Dridi, Screen Hustler
University of the West of Scotland

Screen Hustler empowers emerging screen professionals with comprehensive personal branding solutions. We work collaboratively with our clients to establish an authentic personal brand that reflects their personality, resulting in increased visibility and recognition.



Rist Van de Weyer,
Ujamaa Spice
University of Edinburgh

A Scottish based spices & tea trading business focused on decolonising the traditional spice supply chain by working directly with vulnerable smallhold farmers in Zanzibar to give them back agency. We work through a shared profit model to invest back into these communities



Roma Gibb, Person Centred Solutions
University of the Highlands and Islands

The Bed Band is designed with patients at the heart of our decisions. Preventing users from sliding to the side in bed when they need to sleep in a semi seated position. Helping better quality of sleep and reducing anxiety and pain. Overall enhancing the wellbeing of its users.



Lasse Rasmussen,
Two Raccoons
University of Aberdeen

Hello fellow raccoons!

Two Raccoons are brewing the most delicious, handcrafted fruit wines from surplus ingredients. Established in 2021, we have since rescued over 6.5 tonnes of disregarded fruits and made 12,000L of wine, including banana, mango and blackcurrant.



Joseph French, Whimsylabs
University of Edinburgh

Whimsylabs is an immersive AI-driven laboratory simulation available as a webapp and in VR. We enable students experience the full potential of a lab remotely. Socially focused and committed to making a positive impact on education, we aim to improve global scientific literacy.

Finalists 2023

NetZero

Runner-up: £10,000 cash

£9,000 in-kind support

Winner: £30,000

Plus £17,250 in-kind support



Anna Renouf, FireHorse
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

FireHorse is a forward thinking waste management company that is looking to develop a sustainable and renewable biomass briquette. Looking to tackle the growing problems of waste management and heating our homes from renewable sources.



Oleg Ishkov, Rockit
Heriot-Watt University

The “Rockit” technology prevents undesired leaks from subsurface to the atmosphere. It protects cement plugs from degradation and locks greenhouse gases deep underground for many thousands of years



Darius Roman, yaiLab
Heriot-Watt University

Increase the revenue from battery assets up to 70% by optimising operation and degradation with AI-powered models.



Christopher Solomon,
Zephyrus Aerolabs
University of Aberdeen

Zephyrus Aerolabs pioneers an advanced aerial emission monitoring solution to support decarbonization of the UK's North Sea and Coastal regions. Our data-driven service provides reliable and accurate data, offering tailored insights for reducing carbon footprint.

Finalists 2023

Converge Challenge

Runner-up: £10,000 cash

£9,000 in-kind support

Winner: £50,000 cash

Plus £19,750 in-kind support



Soumya Palliyil, BrIGID Biologics
University of Aberdeen

A preclinical stage biotech company developing safer & effective antibody drugs against serious fungal infections. Leads target key fungal proteins involved in infection and drug resistance. Proposed as first-in-class anti fungals for immunocompromised and in multidrug resistance.



Jessica Birt,
Concinnity Genetics
University of Edinburgh

Building RNA-based gene control systems to improve the safety and efficacy of gene therapies using AI and high throughput automated screening.



Samuel Rotenberg, INFINECT
Heriot-Watt University

INFINECT is connecting the world and changing your way to travel by enabling high speed internet connection on plane, train, boat and anywhere and earth at any time using satellite infrastructure. Enjoy now a true infinite connectivity with INFINECT



Georgina Robinson, N-ovatio-N
University of the Highlands and Islands /
Scottish Association of Marine Science

Aquaculture waste is a growing problem for the industry in Scotland. We aim to upcycle this waste into high value marine worms and sell into UK and export markets globally.



Aravind Jalajakumari,
Singular Photonics
University of Edinburgh

We are the single photon camera experts, and our cameras can see and time every light particle.

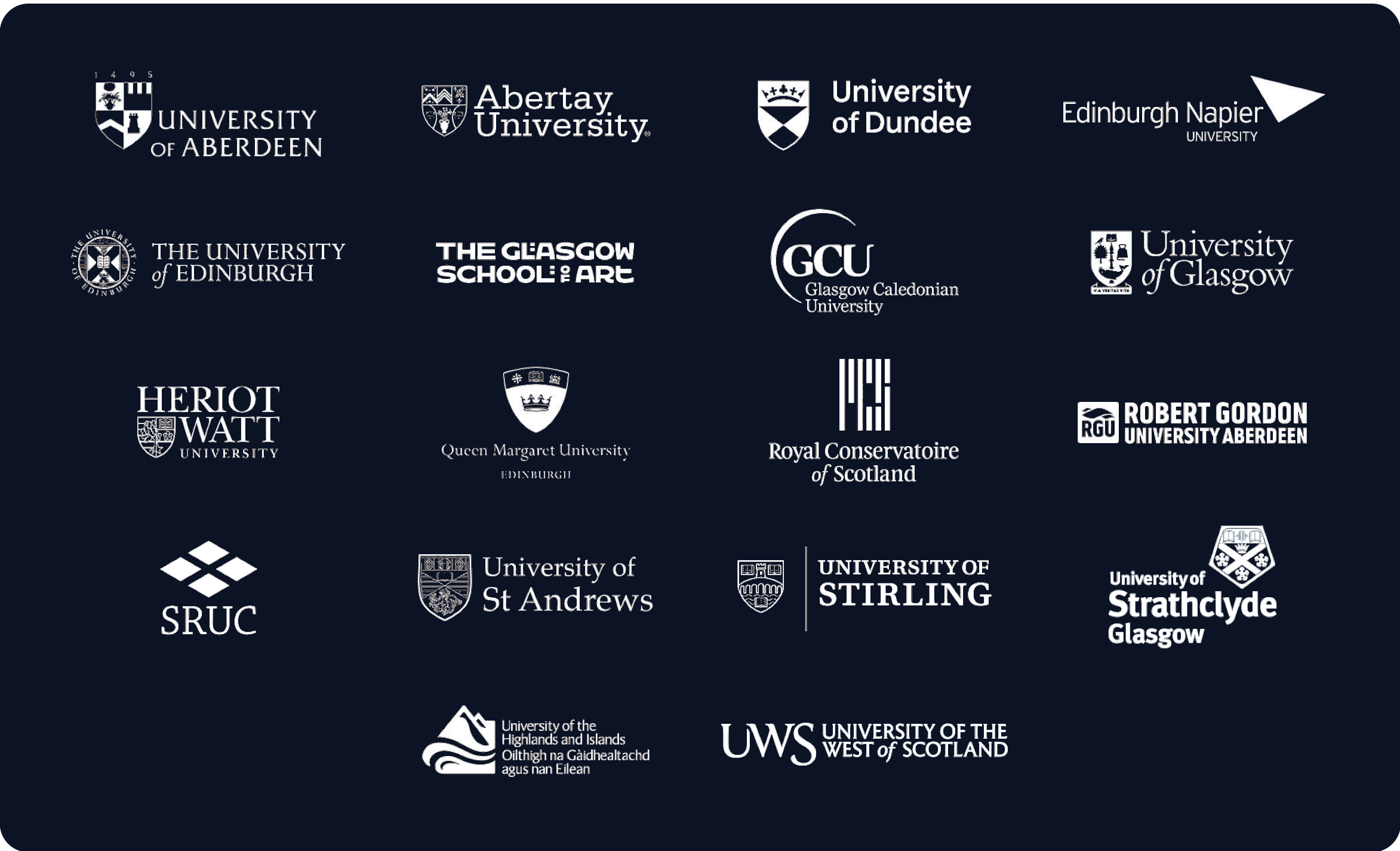


Pavlos Papadopoulos,
TrueDeploy
Edinburgh Napier University

TrueDeploy makes software security easy by seamlessly integrating to the existing practices. We are creating a new method of storing and sharing information about the security of software by simplifying complex and time-consuming processes using privacy-preserving technologies

Our Funders and Partners

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Strategic partners



Professional partners



Supporters

