



**Press Release**

**September 20, 2018**

## **Take Off, Istanbul Launches at Istanbul's New Airport**

**“Take Off”, a 4-day program that will match entrepreneurs with world-class investors, begins on Thursday, September 20 at the Istanbul Grand Airport.**

**The program comes as part of a larger Fair, “Teknofest Istanbul”, which was organized to promote civilian interest in technology and in aviation in particular. The fair is organized by the Turkish Technology Team (T3) Foundation as well as the Municipality of Greater Istanbul. Teknofest will be hosting, in addition to “Take Off”, everything from student rocket competitions to air shows to keynotes and plane exhibitions.**

### **A Meeting of Minds, a Pitching of Ideas**

Take Off has convened some of the world's premiere investors to meet, hear out, and coach up-and-coming startups from the greater region. First, 200 startups will pitch their ideas through 5 different tracks: Agriculture & Food, Energy & Environmental Tech, Logistics, Space & Defense, Health and Wellness, and Education Tech. Then, a jury of judges, comprising investors, entrepreneurs, and other specialists will deem which startups are best poised to take a trip to Silicon Valley. At the same time, the top 15 startups from other countries will be settled in Istanbul.

In addition to pitches, the four days of Take Off will provide ample opportunity for networking between investors, partners, and entrepreneurs. It will also host several panels and keynote speeches by the likes of Kamran Elahian, founder of Global Catalyst Partners, and Amr Awadallah, cofounder of Cloudera.

### **A broad ecosystem**

The startup summit was organized by local and international partners like Hackquarters, The Turkey Technology Team (T3) Foundation, “Invest in Turkey”, the Investment Office of the Turkish Presidency, and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation.





Teknofest is a free festival that aims to support Turkey's progress towards its national technology goals and its transformation into a technology-focused country. Access to the event is provided via free public buses from a variety of points across Istanbul.

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