



AI and biometrics to optimize patient identification: the winning proposal at The Scale-Up! World Summit 2026

The competition dedicated to entrepreneurial talent took place as part of DES2026 and recognized startups such as Heuristik, EONSEA and KIREAP

The Scale-Up! World Summit rewards the most innovative startups with cutting-edge projects designed to transform and drive the development of various industries

Madrid, June 17, 2026. – Startups have established themselves as one of the main drivers of innovation and transformation in the business landscape, providing new technological solutions across an increasingly diverse range of sectors. In the field of artificial intelligence, investor interest is increasingly focused on projects with strong execution capabilities, solid business models and real-world applications that go beyond the mere incorporation of this technology. In this vein, **The Scale-Up! World Summit 2026**, the international event dedicated to entrepreneurial talent held as part of [DES – Digital Enterprise Show 2026](#), has offered the most innovative emerging companies the opportunity to present their proposals to business leaders, investors and potential partners.

In this edition, the event featured **68 finalist startups** selected by a committee of experts. They showcased technological initiatives designed for the banking and insurance, retail and e-commerce, manufacturing and Industry 5.0, digital health, sports and entertainment, and tourism and hospitality industries.

The winning startups of The Scale-Up! World Summit 2026

First prize in the competition went to **Heuristik**, a leading HealthTech company specializing in improving the efficiency of patient identification in healthcare settings. The company presented a software solution for patient identification and management that combines biometrics, specifically fingerprints, with artificial intelligence, with the goal of optimizing care processes and reducing identification errors.

For its part, **EONSEA** took second place thanks to its proposal focused on marine robotics and data analysis for the inspection of subsea and floating assets. The company offers a secure, data-driven monitoring and digitization system for critical maritime infrastructure, with the goal of reducing costs and risks in the maintenance of submerged assets through recurring inspections with ROVs and the periodic generation of status reports using computer vision and artificial intelligence.

Third place went to **KIREAP**, a company that has developed an integrated smart ecosystem capable of connecting farmers, logistics providers and buyers to improve the

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planning, execution and traceability of agricultural supply chains. Through Kireap Intelligence, the company collects primary data from the source and enables the monitoring, prediction, verification and optimization of end-to-end operations, contributing to the development of more sustainable and regenerative ecosystems.

DES2026, a hub for innovation

The Scale-Up! World Summit 2026 took place as part of DES2026, Europe's largest event dedicated to exponential technologies and artificial intelligence, which brought together 17,733 executives in Málaga. During the event, attendees had the opportunity to discover the solutions that are driving competitiveness in businesses and government agencies, thanks to the 408 participating companies and the 637 experts who shared their vision for the future of digital transformation.

About DES | Digital Enterprise Show (June 9-11, 2026, FYCMA, Malaga): DES – Digital Enterprise Show is an event organized by Nebext – Next Business Exhibitions in collaboration with Malaga City Council and the Regional Government of Andalusia. Over nine editions, it has become the largest European professional event on exponential technologies and one of the world's leading events, offering senior management the latest solutions and products to accompany large corporations, SMEs, and European public administrations towards digital transformation. Over three days, we combine technology and innovation with digital leadership, technological solutions to improve customer and employee experience, optimization of operational processes and the identification of new business models, services and products from all industries.

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