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Innovative collaboration for microplastics research

Quadpack Foundation partners with academia to support the development of solutions for plastic contamination

Quadpack Foundation, the charitable arm of international beauty packaging manufacturer and provider Quadpack, has partnered with UAB Research Park, the non-profit organisation co-created by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, to support scientific research on microplastics and their effects



on people and the environment. The foundation sponsored the 12th edition of Generació d'Idees (Ideas Generation), an initiative that aims to foster the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation culture among researchers and doctoral students, connecting them with the current challenges of industries.

From September to December 2021, multidisciplinary research groups participated in co-creation sessions and received entrepreneurship training, mentoring and prototyping support. Finally, the programme held a competition where participants presented their projects to a jury of academics, industry experts and the general public.

The prize for Best Innovative Idea went to MP Food Watching, a solution that uses hyperspectral imaging technology to detect and better visualise microplastics presence in food. Presented as a cost-effective and fast solution for the food chain, the project was awarded €1,000 to start a crowdfunding campaign, mentoring, social media dissemination support and six months of incubation at the UAB Open Labs, the university's open innovation network.

Qu4tre, a group of researchers that had Quadpack engineers Roger Oller and Mariola Rodríguez among its members, won the Public Choice award with the project Omnibox, a reusable container for municipal markets, complete with a logistics plan for its distribution, recovery and cleaning, as part of a zero-waste solution. The group was awarded six months of incubation and social media dissemination support.

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“As an industry, we are conscious of our responsibility and we want to be part of the solution. By being connected to researchers and sharing the challenges we face, we can advance together towards a healthier world and have a positive impact on the next generations,” says Marta Gil, Quadpack Foundation Manager.

Microplastics, fragments smaller than 5mm, can come from the breaking of larger pieces of plastics or are manufactured as such with microspheres in hygiene and cleaning products. Plastic’s numerous industry applications, combined with poor disposal management, has made microplastics pollution grow exponentially. It is now considered a major environmental problem, affecting ocean life, terrestrial fauna and human health.

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Photo caption (from left to right): Quadpack CFO Bardo Bevelander, Quadpack engineers Mariola Rodríguez and Roger Oller and Quadpack Foundation Manager Marta Gil at the 12th edition of Generació d’Idees at the UAB Research Park.

Editor’s notes

The Generació d’Idees programme is an initiative sponsored by Quadpack Foundation, Agbar and Sant Cugat Council. For more information, please visit <https://www.generacioidees.cat/>

About Quadpack Foundation

Quadpack Foundation is a non-profit organisation established by Quadpack Industries in 2016, out of a desire to give back to the communities that have given the company a home. It partners with non-profit organisations, providing support through grants, sponsorship, material donations and volunteering. Quadpack employees are given up to 16 working hours a year to participate in Quadpack Foundation’s projects. See www.quadpack.com/qp-foundation/ for more information.

About Quadpack

Established in 2003, Quadpack is an international manufacturer and provider of enhanced packaging solutions for beauty brand owners and contract fillers. With offices and production facilities in Europe, the Americas and the Asia Pacific region, and a strategic network of manufacturing partners, Quadpack develops bespoke and customised packs for prestige, masstige and mass market customers. Listed on Euronext Growth in Paris, Quadpack relies on a workforce of 600 people to build a more sustainable world. Through its processes, products and people, it aims to have a positive impact on the planet and, through the Quadpack Foundation, on the communities in which it is present. For more information, please visit www.quadpack.com

About UAB Research Park

The UAB Research Park (PRUAB) is a non-profit organisation created in 2007 by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the Institute of Research and Technology (IRTA). Its mission is to promote and enhance the technology and knowledge transfer activities of its members, encourage entrepreneurship through the creation of new businesses based on research and generally facilitate interaction between research, business and society. For more information, please visit <https://www.uab.cat/web/conoce-el-parc/parc-de-recerca-uab-1345674962847.html>.

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