PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
26 November 2020, Cape Town.

AfricArena, the leading African tech ecosystem accelerator, shining light on entrepreneurship, innovation and investment in a year of uncertainty.

AfricArena - be inspired by the most disruptive ideas and people of the moment.

Now in its fourth year, AfricArena held this year's annual Summit as a hybrid event; both in person at Workshop 17 in Cape Town and virtually via their web based AfricArena Air platform and through a new innovative mobile app - AfricArena Wired.

Strengthening their position as the leading African tech ecosystem accelerator, the AfricArena Summit culminated in the announcement of 20 startups from 18 countries being crowned as winners in various ecosystem and open innovation challenges with winners walking away with combined prize money of over $350,000 in cash and AWS credits awards as well as a few lucky winners receiving tickets to Viva Technology in Paris next year.

Braving strong economic headwinds and managing current health and safety requirements, AfricArena, has concluded its annual summit, after bringing together key players of the African tech ecosystem through a series of hybrid in-person and virtual events. Running from 23rd to 26th November 2020, AfricArena 2020 saw 34 of Africa's most promising startups, ranging from Seed to Series B/Growth, take to the stage at Workshop 17 in Cape Town (with measures in place to ensure health and safety compliance), to pitch their solutions to various open innovation challenges sponsored by Bpifrance, AirFrance/KLM, Ozow, Viva Technology, and the French Embassy.

The four-day conference also featured 10 keynotes from tech ecosystem heavyweights and a dozen panel discussions from the best minds in tech, business and investment. Opened by France's Minister of Digital Affairs, Cedric O, the keynote speakers included Robert Paddock, co-founder of Valenture Institute and GetSmarter (one of the largest exits in Africa), Zach George of Startupbootcamp, AfriTech and Nedbank VC, Siby Diabira of PROPARCO, Lelemba Phiri of Africa Trust Group, and African tech startup maverick Iyinoluwa Aboyeji (Co-founder, Andela, Flutterwave and Future Africa).

A recurring theme that threaded through the discussions was how modern tech has defined Africa in the 21st century. Anna Collard's keynote opened this discussion by highlighting contextualised challenges

and opportunities lying in the cybersecurity market; this was followed by panels on the utilisation of data for good, and on the adverse, how tech can be weaponized.

On the weekend leading up to the Summit, AfricArena held two side events: the "Founders Boost Camp", in partnership with FSAT Labs aimed at supporting and training over 50 African tech startups who were pitching at the summit , as well as their VC Conference for Africa-focused VCs (GPs and LPs) and corporate investors.

The thread between these programmes was unpacking the startup-investor relations in Africa and dissecting the push and pull factors that exist. The startups at the Boost Camp were treated to talks by Clive Butkow of Kalon Venture Partners, and entrepreneurs Glenn Gillis and Sheraan Amod, who shared their expertise in building strong businesses. The Venture Unconference brought together 35 leaders in investment discussing a way forward to remove the frictions in the investment process, through regulatory measures, and contractual tools such as Term Sheets and SAFEs as well as the requirements for the Startup Act that a number of the attendees are currently working on.

Jim Chu, Founder of The NEST and Untapped said "I was so very impressed by the caliber of the individuals I met this past weekend just outside of Cape Town during the AfricArena Unconference. This dynamic VC community is putting the right foundations in place for a robust venture ecosystem in ZA and throughout Africa." Will Green, Grindstone Accelerator Programme director, commented, "It was such a great group of impressive, intentional thinkers."

The winning startups

Casky from Morocco won the "Scale from Africa to Europe Challenge" by Bpifrance; Kusini Water (South Africa) won the AirFrance/KLM Challenge for tech innovations in water analysis and purification; and SmartWage (South Africa) took the first prize for the "Future of work challenge" by Viva Technology.

In the Challenge of 1000, which was sponsored by the French Embassy: Mellowvan/Mellowcabs won the Smart Cities category; My Pregnancy Journey won the Impact category; and Kudoti took the prize for the Future of Africa category.

The AfricArena Tour "Best of Ecosystem winners" included:

CloudFret (Morocco)
TaskMoby (Ethiopia)

Oze (Nigeria)

Circle (Egypt)

Enova Robotics (Tunisia)

Yego (Rwanda)

BezoMoney (Ghana)

Seekewa (Ivory Coast)

FoodSasa (Tanzania)

Yusudi (Kenya)

Maad (Senegal)

Tripplo (South Africa, Johannesburg)

3DIMO (South Africa - Cape Town)

A unique challenge this year was a hackathon challenge launched in partnership with fintech growth startup, Ozow, whereby Ozow was looking for an application/proof of concept (MVP) that demonstrates the most innovative use of the Ozow payment API and associated technologies. The three finalists pitched in front of Co-founder and Head of R&D, Mitchan Adams, and the two runner-ups were awarded ZAR25 0000 each, while the winner, Lebogang Nkosi received ZAR100 000 in cash.

Zimkhita Buwa - Board Member at Silicon Cape and Head of Intelligent Business Applications Core Practice at Dimensions Data (Middle East and Africa): "Well done to the AfricArena team on yet another successful event, especially with all you had to contend with this year. AfricArena 2020 was a remarkable experience both in-person and over the virtual platforms – it was no small feat making this experience accessible to more people. Congratulations too to the winning startups! As an ecosystem, your success is our success, so may you soar to greater heights!"

Isabelle Bebear - Head of International and European Affairs at Bpifrance said "After three years of partnership with Africarena, we are glad to have been able to sponsor, for the first time, a challenge to identify African high growth startups that want to expand in Europe. This challenge's goal is much aligned with Bpifrance's role in Africa to connect the African, French and European ecosystems. Bpifrance operates the EuroQuity platform that connects African entrepreneurs with French and European investors. The French Public Investment Bank also supports African companies by investing in African Private Equity funds thanks to Averroes Africa and grant loans to African companies."

Christophe Viarnaud - Founder and CEO of AfricArena, commented "Braving strong economic headwinds and an adverse environment, we are very fortunate to have been able to put together such a high quality hybrid AfricArena Summit, with possibly our strongest headline of speakers ever, and an incredibly rich selection of startups. We are very grateful to our anchor partners for this. 2020 is the year

of accelerated digitalization and we therefore could not be more excited about our new contribution to the African ecosystems with AfricArena Wired. The platform is in effect a powerful technology addition to the AfricArena DNA around Founders and Investors content, knowledge repository, impact events and deal flow platform, now all available from your mobile phone. The response since launch was incredible and we hope this will unlock further value to the ecosystem at large."

Experience AfricArena in the palm of your hand!

The new AfricArena Wired platform is where the African Tech Startup world connects and shares knowledge. This curated community and knowledge base connects African tech founders, investors, partners, mentors and ecosystem players. Users can watch on-demand videos from this year's summit, connect within a curated community of founders, investors, corporates and advisors; and get the latest on ecosystem news.

More information on AfricArena Wired: https://www.africarena.com/africarena-wired
AfricArena Wired app is available on iOS and Android.

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For more information on AfricArena or this press release, please contact:
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ABOUT AFRICARENA: South Africa based AfricArena is the largest tech ecosystem accelerator and deal flow platform in Africa. The Summit involves two days of conference, aimed at creating links and opportunities between startups, investors and established companies, but also between the African continent and the rest of the world. AfricArena stands as a bridge between the international and African tech innovation ecosystems. It represents an opportunity to explore tomorrow's trends, discover today's best companies, startups and innovations, and to be inspired by the most disruptive ideas and people of the moment. After the success of its first three editions since 2017, AfricArena has returned to Cape Town, digitally via AfricArena Air, where delegates will hear from some of the tech scene's leading

visionaries and start-ups will have an opportunity to pitch their innovative solutions to corporates and investors. To find out more about AfricArena, please visit: https://africarena.com/