NETVA 2014: Started off with a bang! June 30–July 2

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And it’s a go for the new edition! On June 30, July 1 and 2 the last annual seminar NETVA program, (the acceleration program to the American market for French startups) was held in France. The session opened with a large public seminar for entrepreneurs and innovation stakeholders covering topics such as the ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in the United States, the protection of intellectual property, legal aspects and accounting, and cultural differences … a day fully dedicated to provide knowledge to French startups knowledge about future expansions outside of France.

Barry Horwitz, a partner in the program made the trip to share his views on strategies to enter the American market

The large and active audience did not hesitate to speak at the conference presentations and quickly turned into a real conversation between the public and presenters. For example, a wide debate opened at the round table on financing startups across the Atlantic and the existing differences with France. Several well-known figures in the world of venture capital attended NETVA this year, such as French Guillaume Lautour from IDINVEST Partners, Jean-Marc Bally of Aster Capital and Marie Ekeland who recently left Elaia Partners. The
2014 edition of NETVA also celebrates its fifth year. NETVA has 47 winners since 2010, more than thirty partners, and over 300 applications; in short a community sensitive to French-american exchanges. A small reception was held in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Development to bring together the community of the program and to officially welcome the new promotion. An evening where past winners were able to share their own experiences and give advice for the immersion week to be held between October and November.

Opening of the session by Maxime Huynh, head of NETVA program in Boston. Past winners accepted to lend themselves to an elevator pitch exercise or they could present their experiences and explain an error or obstacle encountered during their immersion.

The conference was then followed by two speeches. Primarily that of Jacob Vincent, head of the mission to support enterprises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, who kindly wished good luck to this year’s winners and all entrepreneurs present. He also stressed the importance of France’s work in terms of entrepreneurship and described the different directions taken in terms of innovation and entrepreneurship in the department.
Speech by Vincent Jacob, head of the mission to support enterprises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. Also seen in the picture Pascal Boulanger of NAWATechnologies and Solenne Molle of Adionics, both winners of the World 2030 Innovation Competition.

His speech was then followed by that of Jean Pierre Sommadossi, entrepreneur and foreign trade advisor in Boston, who recently completed the acquisition of Idenix by the giant Merck for $3.8 billion. A message full of enthusiasm with ideas like the need for passion in any business project and the need to always have the best talent on board. In his own words: « The sky is the limit! ».

**Good luck to our winners of this year!**