

Bridging start-ups

The StartUP Macau Forum will bring start-ups from Mainland China and Portugal to meet, compete and co-operate with local start-ups on October 10 and 11.

AN Uber for medical professionals, an Airbnb for high-end residences and an online assistance for physiotherapeutic care. These are some of the business ideas to be brought by five Portuguese start-ups attending the StartUP Macau Forum on October 10 and 11.

Organised primarily by CESL Asia, a local services and technology solutions company, and Fábrica de Startups - a Portuguese start-up incubator (a company that helps new businesses to develop) - the StartUP Macau Forum seeks to promote the exchange of business entrepreneurship between different regions and markets.

The event will take place at the Macau Science Centre and is sponsored by both local and Portuguese business promotion

government departments such as the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and aicep Portugal Global - a Portuguese Government business department that helps Portuguese companies to expand internationally.

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa will attend the event as part of his trip to the MSAR for the 5th Ministerial Conference to be held October 11 and 12. The Prime Minister brings with him five Portuguese start-ups interested in contacting local investors and developing future partnerships.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will also reportedly attend during the awards ceremony for the event's pitch competition, in which different start-ups try to attract investors by best presenting their business projects.

Competing for innovation

The first day of the StartUP Macau Forum will see the 20 participating start-ups from Mainland China, Portugal and Macau attend a workshop focused on aiding the participants in developing their business models and teaching them how to pitch to investors.

Business counselling for the forum will be provided by entrepreneurship and technology experts from the China Association for Science and Technology, Tsinghua University, the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre and the Macau China Thinktank for Finch Industries.

The workshops will be organised by the founder and CEO of Fábrica de Startups, António Lucena de Faria, and one of the business incubator partners, Martim Avelaz Figueiredo.

The second day will see the 20 start-ups competing in the pitch competition, in which they introduce their business proposals to an expert jury from the international investor and entrepreneur community, from which the jury will select three winners. ■

