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SynBio AXLR84 invests \$60,000 in biotechnology startup Revolution Bioengineering

Revolution Bioengineering, a plant synthetic biology startup company founded in Fort Collins, CO has been selected to join the inaugural class of Ireland-based SynBio AXLR8R. SynBio AXLR8R has invested \$60,000 in Revolution Bioengineering to support the development of flowers that change color throughout the day.

SynBio AXLR8R is a comprehensive business accelerator program focused on developing companies which utilize synthetic biology to engineer new biological functions in organisms. In addition to facilitating scientific research, SynBio AXLR8R connects start-ups like Revolution Bioengineering with mentors in every aspect of running a business – from finance to social media. Sales mentor Wayne Murphy of SELR8R shared his excitement about Revolution Bioengineering’s involvement: “I think what you guys are doing is so cool and so fresh. The energy you guys have is amazing and married with real talent.”



Keira Havens, CEO and Nikolai Braun, CSO of Revolution Bioengineering with Prof. Gerald Fitzgerald of UCC and Bill Liao of SOS Ventures and SynBio AXLR8R

CEO Keira Havens said “We were inspired to use synthetic biology to create something beautiful. Right now synthetic biology is something technical and distant for the public, but a color changing flower is something that people can personally interact with.” Though ambitious, SynBio AXLR8R has confidence in the team. Bill Liao, SynBio AXLR8R mentor and SOS Ventures European Investment Partner shared, “Keira and Nikolai have the courage and the genius to make their company a massive global success. What they are doing in creating something beautiful is actually a foundation stone for a much wider mission to solve big problems with tiny engineering. They have stepped out of their comfort zone in the scientific establishment to be pioneers in the indy biotech world and we are proud to have them as part of our inaugural program.”

University College Cork (UCC) has partnered with SynBio AXLR8R to provide a state-of-the-art molecular biology lab and access to university facilities for the three months of the program. Prof. Gerald Fitzgerald, head of the School of Microbiology at UCC, said “We’re excited to have SynBio AXLR8R joining the cutting-edge science at UCC. The teams have some great ideas and we can’t wait to see where they take them.” Revolution Bio joins MuuFri, developing animal-free milk, Briefcase Biotec, who is building a rapid prototyping DNA synthesizer, and Hyasynth, who are engineering yeast biosynthetic pathways to synthesize high value molecules.

Revolution Bioengineering is pleased to be participating in Ireland’s rapidly growing biotechnology sector. The founders, Ms. Keira Havens and Dr. Nikolai Braun are now living in the heart of Cork City on Blarney Street, which is very exciting for two Americans who have never been to Ireland before. Dr. Braun received his PhD in 2007 from the University of California, Davis in Biophysics; Ms. Havens received her M.S. from Colorado State University in 2014. Revolution Bioengineering was founded in May of 2013.

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