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Ulster Bank's Startup Programme Wins Learning Prize at Deloitte Financial Services Innovation Awards

- Ulster Bank has been running a programme called StartUp, which gives bank colleagues the opportunity to bring new ideas to life, in partnership with Dogpatch Labs
- Colleagues learn to tackle problems like a startup, with mentors from the startup community. This is the second year of the programme, which has already delivered innovative banking solutions into the Irish market.
- Inaugural Learning Award recognises an organisation which fosters a culture of innovation

2nd October 2019: Ulster Bank's colleague entrepreneur programme StartUp, which enables employees to bring new business ideas to life, has been awarded the top prize in the Learning category at the 2019 Deloitte Financial Services Innovation Awards.

StartUp was developed in partnership with Dogpatch Labs, a leading entrepreneurial hub for tech startups in Ireland. Colleagues submit ideas through StartUp, and if selected, learn to work with and like startups. The teams spend thirteen weeks developing disruptive propositions, culminating in a pitch to senior managers..

StartUp forms a key part of Ulster Bank's wider culture of supporting colleagues who have a passion for improving the customer experience to develop banking innovations. Reflecting the scale and success of the StartUp programme so far, the Learning Award recognises an organisation which fosters such a culture of innovation.

Commenting, Ulster Bank's Head of Innovations, Carole Donaghy said:

"We are delighted that StartUp has been recognised for the innovative and exciting programme that it is, one which encourages Ulster Bank colleagues to really think differently and develop disruptive ideas that could deliver better, industry-leading services for our customers.

"At Ulster Bank we are strong supporters of innovation, because we are committed to finding new ways to improve the banking experience for our customers. We are also grateful for the support that our close partnership with Dogpatch Labs brings, enabling our colleagues to link into the heart of Ireland's tech community with a place to work, grow, share knowledge and make connections."

Dogpatch Labs is also home to Ulster Bank's Innovation Solutions team,. Being at the centre of Dogpatch allows them to take full advantage of the Irish tech startup ecosystem. Commenting, MD of Dogpatch Labs, Patrick Walsh said:

"Here at Dogpatch Labs, we're committed to supporting and accelerating the development of Ireland's startup community and we are proud to partner with Ulster Bank on its innovative StartUp programme.

Ireland is growing every year as a centre for innovation in Fintech and the more companies that embrace this development in a collaborative and positive way, the more groundbreaking and exciting the outcomes will be for customers. I want to congratulate Ulster Bank on its win."

A key component of the StartUp programme is Ulster Bank's annual Hackathon, which includes a category for colleagues to apply disruptive ideas and technologies to the organisation where they work every day, challenging them to think like third-party disruptors.

Previous winners in this intrapreneurship category were Growth Hub, a platform to match start ups and new businesses who are struggling to get finance with alternative lenders, and Farm Assistant, a financial information and management tool for the agri sector, to help farmers collate and store their financial data.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About Deloitte Financial Services Innovation Awards

The Deloitte Financial Services Innovation Awards celebrate innovation by financial services companies across the island of Ireland, recognise both individuals and companies that are leading the way in innovation - using technology to address challenges and create opportunities, improving user experience, and changing the way business is done. Financial Services Ireland (FSI) and Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI) partner with Deloitte on the awards.