

PRESS RELEASE

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Gigas for Schools: finding the tech leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow

Gigas and Educsi - Jesuit Education Network name the best business idea among young students

- 'Smart Plant', the brainchild of Revillagigedo Technical School in Gijón, was the winning project in this latest edition of the event
- A total of 20 projects presented by educational centres from across all of Spain were entered into this pioneering initiative aimed at students aged from 15 to 18

The Gigas for Schools programme, a product of the partnership between Educsi – Jesuit Education Network and multinational cloud computing firm Gigas, seeks to awaken a passion for technology and enterprise among students. The competition culminated in yesterday's final, with victory going to the 'Smart Plant' project presented by Revillagigedo Technical School in Gijón.

The four students on the winning team were magnificent in fusing technology, a feasibility study, market factors and their own potential to form a perfectly coordinated project. 'Smart Plant' allows us to go on holiday without having to worry about who's going to water the plants and even helps us create and nurture our own herb garden at home.

The panel, comprising Antonio Allende Felgueroso, Delegate for Education at the Society of Jesus for the Province of Spain; Arantza Ezpeleta, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer at Acciona; Diego Cabezero, co-founder and CEO of Gigas; and Javier Cebrián Monereo, co-founder and CEO of Bonsai Venture Capital, praised the virtues of all four short-listed projects and said that choosing a winner had been no easy task.

The other projects competing in yesterday's final, namely 'El Esqueleto Bonaparte' by Colegio San José in Valladolid; 'Blockotech', presented by Colegio Santa María del Mar from A Coruña; and 'Wolf Weather Station' by Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola from Alcalá de Henares, all wildly exceeded their creators' expectations in getting to the final. The inventiveness and maturity of all the ideas put forward, along with the quality of the presentations for all projects, are a promising portent for future editions of the competition.

Gigas for Schools encourages and stimulates new generations, especially women, to develop and channel their digital talent towards the IT professions of tomorrow, in the knowledge that they hold the key to our future success.

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Diego Cabezudo, CEO at Gigas, praised the merits of the winning project but was equally impressed with all the entries. *"The ingenuity and potential of all these projects makes us hugely optimistic and promises a bright future"*, said Cabezudo, while encouraging students to *"make the most of their youth and talent"* and to *"never give up or lose sight of their dreams"*.

Meanwhile, Antonio Allende, delegate of Educsi – Jesuit Education Network, added how pleased he was with the success of the programme and stressed the crucial role these experiences play in developing and honing the talent of the students studying at the educational centres of the Society of Jesus.

Gigas for Schools

The Gigas for Schools initiative has been successfully deployed at various Jesuit educational centres. It is aimed at students aged between 15 and 18 and seeks to awaken their interest in R&D and new technologies while giving them the technical expertise they will need. The entire process offers students tutored practical training in key areas such as marketing, business planning, product development and sales and strategy, all delivered by both Educsi - Jesuit Education Network and Gigas.

About Educsi – Jesuit Education Network

Educsi is the educational arm of the Society of Jesus in the Province of Spain. It has 69 traditional educational centres with upwards of 75,000 pupils and 6,000 teachers. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) has been educating people for over four hundred and fifty years and has a global network of 4,000 educational centres around the world. It draws inspiration from the Christian vision of Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the order, who sought to give subjects the experience and internal belief needed to transform the world by giving thanks to the Lord and to their brethren, in the conviction that humanity means brotherhood. His educational achievements have since led to what we know today as the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm.

About Gigas.com

Gigas is a Spanish cloud computing company listed on the Mercado Alternativo Bursátil (Spanish Alternative Equity Market or MAB) since 2015 (GIGA.MAB). Founded in 2011, it has become one of the world's leader providers in the sector, according to Gartner's "Magic Quadrant for Cloud Infrastructure as a Service" report. Gigas, which offers cloud computing solutions to both large companies and SMEs, stands out for its cutting-edge technology and exceptional technical support. The company has data centers in Madrid, Miami, Santiago de Chile and Bogotá and offices in Spain, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Miami, Panama and Mexico.

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