PRESS RELEASE

EIT Food partner Isabel Hoffmann, CEO of Tellspec, wins EU woman innovation award

Leuven, 05 October 2018 – The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) rewarded Europe's top innovators in the fields of energy, health and food. EIT Food partner Isabel Hoffmann, founder and CEO of Tellspec, won the EU woman innovation award for her work in the development of a rapid, portable and affordable sensor to test for the quality and decay of raw white fish, and the fraudulent use of excess water in frozen fish. Other EIT Food partners involved in the project include Azti, Microbion and the Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) of Queen's University of Belfast.

The EIT Woman Award recognises outstanding women innovators. Winners receive a €20,000 prize.

Tellspec, a UK-based data company, is a member of EIT Food's start-up community RisingFoodStars. EIT Food created the RisingFoodStars Association to serve as an umbrella for high potential agri-food start-ups and scale-ups and support them with its expert network and programmes, technological infrastructure and business creation support, to significantly accelerate their international growth.

Receiving the award, Isabel commented: "I am very proud to have won the first EIT innovation award for our EIT-Food community. I hope this award will be the first in a series of many that will showcase the amazing innovative work being supported and developed at EIT-Food."

EIT Food's CEO, Filip Fontaine, congratulated the winner and stated: "Winning this award is a recognition of the outstanding work done by Isabel and her team in applying new technologies in the supply chain, to increase its transparency. This is a great contribution to the mission of EIT Food to bring transparency to the food supply chain and increase consumer trust."

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology played host to the EIT Awards ceremony last night, celebrating Europe's most talented entrepreneurs and innovators during INNOVEIT, the EIT's annual innovation forum. Isabel was competing as part of a group of thirty-nine candidates selected for driving European innovation through ground-breaking products, projects and services that tackle global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitalisation, food, health and raw materials.

Isabel has founded eight successful companies, in software and preventive medicine. Her purpose now is to help educate others about clean healthy food and to improve food safety for all. As CEO of Tellspec,

combating fish fraud is part of her larger mission to create a world where food is clean and truly nutritional for everyone.

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About EIT Food

EIT Food is Europe's leading food innovation initiative, with the aim to create a sustainable and future-proof food sector.

The initiative is made up of a consortium of key industry players, start-ups, research centres and universities from across Europe. It is one of six Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) established by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT), an independent EU body set up in 2008 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

EIT Food aims to collaborate closely with consumers to develop new knowledge and technology-based products and services that will ultimately deliver a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle for all European citizens.

EIT Food has created the RisingFoodStars Association, which serves as an umbrella for high potential agrifood startups and scaleups, to support and nurture a select group of young companies. The Association is a partner of EIT Food and as such allows its members to participate in all EIT Food activities, thus contributing to the delivery of EIT Food's strategic objectives.

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