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Hardware accelerator Buildit opens new application round, gives out 200K

Hardware accelerator Buildit has opened a call for a new batch, investing up to 20K EUR per team in the new round. The 3 month programme starts on 15 September; applications are open until 20 July for hardware startups from the whole world.

Buildit, the first hardware-focused accelerator in Northern and Eastern Europe, takes in up to 10 teams at a time. The startups receive funding of maximum 20K EUR per team and help with prototype development. "Most valuable for the startups though is the network of 80+ high-profile mentors. We bring startups together with industry professionals, successful serial entrepreneurs and investors and prepare them to raise the next round", says Aleksander Tönnisson, co-founder and CEO of Buildit.

Unlike other startup accelerators Buildit focuses explicitly on providing extensive hardware-related support during the programme - teams can use on-site prototyping facilities and testing platform, free office space and discounted services from partners to minimize development, design, testing, marketing, legal and financial costs.

First batch graduating in August

Buildit's first round earlier this year attracted applicants from over 20 countries. "Our experience absolutely confirms the need for a specialised accelerator. We see a growing trend of software engineers wanting to move into hardware business, and they need help with that. For example, there is a lot of uncertainty about how manufacturing is actually done. In short: we help put "things" into Internet of Things. " adds Tönnisson. The accelerator's first batch of five teams deal with fields such as navigation, data processing, communication, health and gaming; their upcoming products promise benefits ranging from reducing cycling accidents from hand-held navigation devices to delivering more fun iPad gaming experience.

Buildit Hardware Accelerator is based in Estonia, known as the development site of Skype and for its thriving startup scene and e-governance initiatives, the latest of which include introducing [digital ID-cards for non-residents](#) to simplify doing business in Estonia and a planned [government-backed fund](#) of 60 mln EUR for early stage companies.

Applications to Buildit are open on <http://www.builditaccelerator.com> until 20 July.

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