

TYRO.VC FACTSHEET

Tyro.VC is the first event of its kind, a competition in the form of a reality show where bright young people whom we have called “Tyros” (or newbies), who want a taste of the venture capital industry, vie for the title of “The Tyro”. The finalists were coached by five prominent venture capital firms in Singapore to get first-hand mentoring and insights into the workings of venture capital.

It is creatively organized by Infocomm Investments Pte Ltd to increase the awareness of the tech startup and investment ecosystem in Singapore. The competition helps to discover young budding investment associates for the venture capital industry and in parallel good early-stage innovation-driven startups, enabling these young startups to understand what venture capitalists look for in deciding whether or not to invest.

This competition ran from November 2014 to mid-February 2015, showcasing the behind-the-scenes world of tech investing, through recordings shared over YouTube.

The five venture capital firms featured in the programme are Infocomm Investments, Red Dot Ventures, Golden Gate Ventures, Gree Ventures and Clickstream Ventures. Partners from these firms played the role of mentors to the semi-finalists and then the finalists in the competition.

Thirty participants were shortlisted from a pool of 60 applicants to go through a rigorous interview process held on 6 December 2014. Ten were eventually shortlisted to proceed to the semi-finals.

The ten semi-finalists, aged between 20 to 29 years, come from a diverse background ranging from undergraduate students to working professionals. As part of the competition, they underwent training sessions and were individually guided on deal sourcing activities. The training sessions include business model training, sales and presentation skills, and professional image and personal branding classes.

During the semi-finals on 23 January 2015 the ten contestants presented the potential deals that they have sourced, and were judged based on their ability to spot and pitch viable business ideas and models. Five finalists were eventually selected to proceed to the finals on 11 February 2015.

The entire competition was filmed as a reality series and the individual synopsis of the episodes are:

- **Episode 1** opens with the overview of the game structure and the prize they are fighting for. The episode highlights how all participants came from different backgrounds but they have a common goal of wanting to venture into the industry.

- **Episode 2** pits contestants against each other, as the judges remain brutal throughout the process. This episode reveals the selection of the top ten that will move on to the next stage. It ended with the judges giving encouragement to the top ten contestants while laying out the challenges ahead in the competition.
- **Episode 3** follows the selected contestants through the training process. This episode goes in depth into the top 10 contestants' experience and how they dealt with the challenges in the process of the competition.
- **Episode 4** features the tension as the top ten pitches to their mentors in the semi-finals round. The top five finalists going to the final round will also be revealed in this episode.
- **Episode 5** shows the communal spirit of the startup community as the ecosystem rallied together for this final day. Even though only one will take home the title of 'The Tyro', they have come together as one to bring progress to the startup scene in Singapore.