

## **KPMG Private Enterprise unveils Africa's top tech innovator!**

*Khula! selected as winner of the KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator in Africa competition*

30 June 2021 – Today KPMG South Africa announced the winners of their 4-month long **KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator in Africa** competition which aims to recognise Africa's most successful technology innovators across the continent, with Khula! coming out as the leading tech innovator and set to partake in the global leg of the competition, taking place in November 2021.

This global competition, which was created to include 16 countries across most major regions of the world, invited businesses to pitch their innovations and present their growth ambitions to panels of local and global industry experts, in the hopes of being recognised as a leading tech innovator.

"We opened the competition to Africa in February this year and received 75 applications from across the continent. The response was phenomenal, as was the talent and innovation across these businesses. Thirty (30) applicants were then chosen, based on the competition criteria, to proceed to the judges' scoring round. From here ten (10) finalists were then invited to pitch at a virtual event, held on **Wednesday 30 June 2021**, where Khula! was announced as the overall Africa winner," says Alan Barr at KPMG.

Khula! was not only chosen because of the innovation they have shown in their business, but, most importantly for how sustainable this business model has proven to be – from a start-up to a company that now has incredible growth potential. There is no doubt that Africa should be closely watched as the next big growth market with an exciting digital ecosystem and job creation resources and Khula! has demonstrated how digital innovation, coupled with a customer-centric view, can truly provide lessons for the rest of the world to learn, and grow from.

As the winner of the KPMG Tech Innovator in Africa, Khula! will now participate in a global final at the Web Summit Conference, in Lisbon, Portugal in November 2021, together with the winners of each of the participating countries. Khula! will not only be recognised for their business approach on the global stage, but have the chance to network with other industry experts and tech innovators across the globe.

"I am incredibly humbled that we have been chosen as the overall winner to represent Africa on the global stage, more especially because we are in the process of rolling out the Khula! Inputs App. None of this would have been possible without my incredible team. The competition was incredibly intense, and a lot of the finalists were at a far more advanced stage than we are - this makes it even more important for us to bring our A-game in Lisbon" – **Karidas Tshintsholo, CEO of Khula!**

Commenting on the competition, Alan Barr, Partner and Head of Private Enterprise at KPMG said, "The technology sector is growing at a rapid pace in Africa and today's innovators have shown that matching technologies to real work challenges, can lead to significant gains in growth and efficiency. I want to congratulate Khula on being recognised as KPMG's Tech Innovator in Africa, it is a well-deserved accolade, and we wish them well as they prepare to take the global stage in November this year and showcase the true potential of Africa."

**Note to editors:**

**Africa Top 10 Finalists:**

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Company Name</b>       | <b>Company description</b>  |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| Morocco        | Chari Co.                 | Chari Co is a B2B ecommerce app allowing grocery stores, in Morocco and Tunisia, to order in few clicks, whatever they need for their shops - and get it delivered in less than 24 hours.   |
| South Africa   | Humanz                    | Humanz is an AI-powered influencer marketing platform engineered to bring back trust between marketers, content creators and their audiences – while combatting influencer fatigue and measuring true ROI. Creating a safe and seamless end-to-end experience for all parties involved.   |
| South Africa   | Arc Innovations (Pty) Ltd | ARC Innovations provides solutions inspired by cutting-edge reseARCh and technologies for eco-innovative products. ARC develops, produces, commercialises, represents and then markets these solutions for, and to, players predominantly in the construction and mining industries.  |
| South Africa   | Khula!                    | <p>Khula is a digital ecosystem of 3 platforms that connect &amp; enable role players in the agricultural and food value chain to grow their businesses.</p> <p>1.Khula! Inputs Marketplace: This platform is built to support farmers (of all sizes and anywhere in the country) to easily, &amp; efficiently, access certified agricultural inputs and services from industry players.</p> <p>2.Khula! Fresh Produce Marketplace: Connects pre-approved farmers (based food safety regulations) directly with bulk buyers of fresh produce with key suppliers.</p> <p>3.Khula! Funder Dashboard: Built for funders and financiers to support farmers in their development and growth.</p> |
| South Africa   | iiDENTIFii (Pty) Ltd      | iiDENTIFii is a remote digital facial biometric authentication and automated onboarding technology platform. It fulfils the needs of customer-focused organisations that are required to authenticate and on-board customers - without them having to be physically present and the entire process is seamless, secure, mobile and digital.   |
| South Africa   | Karri Payments            | Karri helps over 1000 schools in South Africa collect funds from their parents via a built-for-purpose mobile application. Karri is used for all school collections such as school fees fundraisers, sports tours, stationery packs, lunch money etc.   |
| Nigeria        | Youverify                 | Youverify is a software as a service (SaaS) platform that helps businesses digitalise and automate their Know Your Customer (KYC) and customer due diligence with, or without, coding. The SaaS platform enables businesses to identify customers through digital identity verification, cross-check data from multiple sources and make decisions based on real-time data.   |
| South Africa   | ukheshe technologies      | Ukheshe provides banks, telco's and fintech with a single API orchestration framework to enable digital first banking and payment propositions. Ukheshe is unique in the market providing wallets, authentication, cards payments, KYC & remittance across the continent.   |

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| South Africa | Revix  | Revix a platform that enables everyday people to invest in emerging themes, alternative assets as well as traditional securities in an effortless way. As a neo-broker, Revix offers customers automated investing tools, and a rewards program, that incentivises smart investing actions. |
| South Africa | Fundrr | Fundrr provides working capital to small businesses in South Africa ranging from R20 000 to R5 000 000 in size, and 3 to 12 months in term. By use alternative data APIs and technology-enabled tools, Fundrr provides a seamless onboarding process and quicker turnaround time.           |

The KPMG Private Enterprise Tech Innovator competition is being hosted in the following 16 countries:

- Bahrain
- Brazil
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Israel
- Mexico
- Nordic Region
- Portugal
- Africa
- Spain
- UK
- United Arab Emirates
- USA

**About KPMG Private Enterprise**

You know KPMG, you might not know KPMG Private Enterprise. We are dedicated to working with businesses like yours. It's all we do. Whether you're an entrepreneur, a family business, or a fast-growing company, we understand what's important to you.

The KPMG Private Enterprise global network for Emerging Giants has extensive knowledge and experience working with the startup ecosystem. From seed to speed, we're here throughout your journey. You gain access to KPMG's global resources through a single point of contact — a trusted advisor to your company. It's a local touch with a global reach.

**About KPMG**

KPMG is a global organisation of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. We operate in 147 countries and territories and have more than 219,000 people working in firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients.

**About Khula**

Khula is a digital ecosystem of 3 platforms that connect & enable role players in the agricultural and food value chain to grow their businesses.