



Québec-Based Startup Wins Distinguished SXSW ® Accelerator Award

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AUSTIN, TEXAS – March 10, 2014 – [Planet Québec](#) announces that Québec-based startup [Synbiota](#) has received the highly-coveted 2014 [SXSW Accelerator](#) award in the Innovative World Technologies category.

Synbiota is a virtual collaboration site that connects global scientists, researchers, universities and others to come together to solve the world's most complex problems using genetic engineering. At SXSW this year, Synbiota announced the [Synbiota #ScienceHack](#), the world's first massive open online science event where hundreds of scientists around the world will work together via Synbiota to make affordable medicine.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to receive this honor," said Connor Dickie, CEO, Synbiota. "Synbiota's mission is to enable the science community to solve the world's biggest problems within a first-of-its-kind, collaborative platform, and receiving the SXSW Accelerator award will help us reach our world-changing goals even faster."

"Québec had three outstanding finalists in this year's SXSW accelerator competition, produced by Québec's rapidly expanding technology industry" says Louise Fortin, director of Economic Services at the Québec Government Office in Atlanta. "Considering the large number of businesses that applied for the accelerator pitch competition, we're extremely proud to see our very own Synbiota make it all the way through as its category winner."

The [2014 SXSW Accelerator](#) pitch competition is designed to highlight the most innovative advancements in a variety of emerging technology sectors. Synbiota was chosen out of 500 applicants as one of 48 round-one finalists to present to a panel of expert judges on Saturday, March 8. Making it through to the final round of 18 finalists on the following day, Synbiota's pitch rose above the competition to take the grand prize in the Innovative World Technologies category.

Planet Québec invites SXSW badge holders to hob nob with the Synbiota team as well as Québec's other awe-inspiring finalists at **Québec's Interactive, Advertising, Film and Music Mixer** taking place in the [Maggie Mae's](#) (6th & Trinity) Gibson Room on Tuesday, March 11, 5pm - 7 pm.

Additionally, even more of Québec's promising technology entrepreneurs and knowledgeable representatives will be showcased at one of SXSW's scheduled Meet Ups:

- [So Cold, So Hot: Québec's Booming Interactive Industry](#), on Monday, March 10 from 2:30-3:30 pm., as well as –
- [The Planet Québec SXSW Trade Show pavilion](#), located in the Austin Convention Center, Exhibit Hall 3 at stands 1219, 1221, 1318 and 1320 through March 12.

Join the Meet Up and stop by the booth to be inspired by these highly innovative organizations, and to learn exactly why Québec is a true North American entertainment, technology and interactive industry hub.

About Planet Québec

For the fourth consecutive year, the Québec Government is displaying under the Planet Québec at SXSW ® banner some of Québec's best talent in the interactive, film and music industries, from March 7 to 15, 2014 in Austin, Texas.

Arts and innovative technology companies are booming in Québec and gaining international recognition. Planet Québec promises an unforgettable cultural, musical, cinematographic and technological experience at South by Southwest 2014. Follow Planet Québec on Twitter and Instagram @PlanetqcSXSW and on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#) and with the hashtag, [#SXSWqc](#).

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