

NEW CABLE CHANNELS KEEP COMING DESPITE CONTENT-COST CRACKDOWN

Candy and snacks giant Mondelez International has picked nine startups to participate in an ambitious new mobile-technology initiative aimed at driving more impulse purchases and better in-store marketing. The program, called "Mobile Futures," began in October with an open call for new ideas that drew 126 applications. Twenty-two startups survived the first cut, with the final list narrowed to nine after a two-day pitch event. But this is no ordinary pitch. The startups will not only get a chance to create new applications for big brands such as Oreo and Trident, but also could play a role in creating one or two new mobile-focused tech companies that Mondelez hopes to launch at the end of the process. "It would become an actual standalone company," said Edward Kaczmarek, Mondelez's director-innovation and emerging technology. Mondelez "would not fully own the company, but we would have some type of vested interest. We're working on all the details of that."

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