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Top 10 Discoveries at TechCrunch Moscow

By Yakov Sadchikov

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Moscow is not without major technology events. However, there is one that stands out from the crowd.

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More than 1,000 people attended this year's event in the former chocolate factory Red October. Here are the top 10 discoveries that came out of discussions at this year's event, which was held from Dec. 9 to 10.

1. The Venue

Digital October is located in the Red October former chocolate factory, which is now full of design and media offices. It not only organizes and hosts tech events but also holds popular lecture series Knowledge Stream.

2. The Host

Maria Adamian, curator at Digital October, is a driving force behind all the center's activities.

3. Russian startups are no longer local

For now, Web startups from Russia do not need to go to Silicon Valley and Europe to attract a global audience. The conference is a launchpad for startups to pitch their Web products. It was broadcast live over the Internet in both English and Russian.

4. The conference featured a host of stellar speakers

TechCrunch European editor Mike Butcher, Mail.ru Group CEO **Dmitry Grishin**, Runa Capital's senior partner Serguei Beloussov and KupiVIP.ru CEO **Oskar Hartmann** were just some of the speakers to address conference attendees.

5. Russian online travel companies beat global players on the Russian market

Being a category killer in e-commerce, online travel is one of the fastest-growing sectors on the Russian market. Leading online travel companies such as Oktogo.ru, **OneTwoTrip** and **Anywayanyday** revealed how building strong brands helped them beat global competitors in Russia.

6. Online fashion retailers are performing well

In spite of the fact that cash-on-delivery remains the major payment method for buying fashion online, it is a sector where venture capital investors are eager to put their money. Guess who benefits mostly from this? Russian women.

7. In mobile gaming, Russian developers come out on top

Though you may not have heard of Zeptolab or Game Insight, you may have their heard of game titles such as **Cut the Rope** or **Mystery Manor**, which are popular smartphone apps. Mobile gaming companies are a good illustration of the fact that global brands from Russia

can prove successful.

8. Sci-tech is still possible in Russia

Two new Russia-based firms Grishin Robotics and Quantum Wave claim to have lined up millions of dollars of investment in personal robotics and quantum computing, respectively. In fact, the companies say they have already started receiving investments.

9. Excursiopedia wins startup competition

TechCrunch Moscow organized a two-day startup contest. The online marketplace for tours and activities, Excursiopedia**,** won the competition, finishing ahead of **TeamLab**, **Oh My Stats!**, **RealtimeBoard**, **AdEasy** and **Endorphin**.

10. There will be a new TechCrunch Moscow conference next year

So be sure to make it to next year's event!

Yakov Sadchikov is the founder of Quintura*, an online search engine.*

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