



THE INNOVATION FUND

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INNOVATION FUND MAKES ITS FIRST INVESTMENT IN FRANCE

On October 5th, 2016, François Cornelis and Olivier Belenger signed the participation agreement of Innovation Fund in Mathym, a start up initiated by Frédéric Chaput, incubated at Ecole Normale Sup of Lyon and supported by Rhone Alpes Création and the Alberici family. It is, after Monocal, the second investment of Innovation Fund in material science.

THE HOST OF THE AUTUMN 2016: BASF ANTWERPEN

On September 7th, 2016, the meetings of the Board and the Investment Committee were hosted at BASF Antwerp.

BASF Antwerp is the largest integrated chemical production site in Belgium and the second largest BASF group production site globally.

The BASF Antwerp site contains fifty production facilities. Its product range comprises base and specialty chemicals, synthetics and primary products, refining products and inorganic chemicals. BASF Antwerp products go on to be utilized in virtually all processing sectors, such as the automotive industry, the construction sector, paper and leather manufacturing, sports equipment, as well as the textile, food and pharmaceutical sectors.

BASF is one of the world's most innovative companies. Innovations are our wellspring and our driving force. Our «We create chemistry» strategy is also geared towards innovation: we at BASF are



continuously introducing sustainable solutions which significantly contribute to improving quality of life and to preserving resources such as water or energy.



THE GUEST OF THE DAY: WOUTER DE GEEST, CEO BASF ANTWERPEN



**CREATING NEW BUSINESS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF
TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND THE EXPERIENCE OF
AN ESTABLISHED COMPANY LIKE BASF.**

What is your background?

I started my career as a lawyer. In 1982 I became the head of the legal department at BASF Antwerp and went on to lead the HR department. In 1998 I transferred to the headquarters in Ludwigshafen for the introduction of BASF onto the New York stock exchange. Since 2001 I am a member of the executive committee at BASF Antwerp and since 2007, CEO. Besides my commitment to BASF I also act, amongst others, as chairman of essenscia (Belgian federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences industries), as chairman of ACTA vzw, as vice-chairman of VOKA (Flemish employers' association) and as a member of the strategic committee at VBO (Belgian employers' association); >>



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Why did BASF invest in the Innovation Fund?

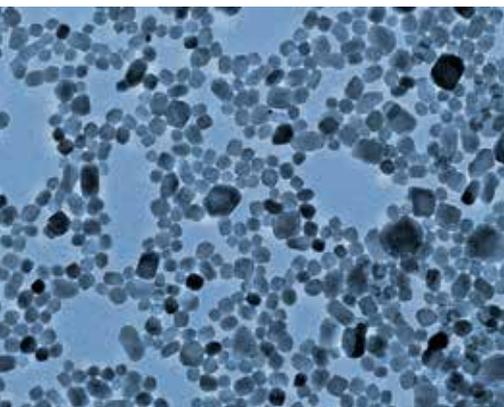
Chemistry offers solutions to the current and future needs of our society. BASF concentrates on innovation and co-creation, collaborating with companies, knowledge institutions, commercial partners and customers across borders. The Innovation Fund's focus on promoting innovative projects in the Belgian chemical industry fits perfectly with this vision. That is why we support this initiative wholeheartedly.

What are your expectations?

The Innovation Fund focuses on investing in small or medium-sized start-up companies presenting a technological innovation. Often these companies are far more agile and creative than well established companies. On the other hand, an established company like BASF can offer its network, knowledge of the markets, funding... We expect to create new business opportunities by combining these innovations with the experience of a proven company.

INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

FYTEKO Fyteko is a young innovative company developing plant's biostimulants focusing on reducing the effects of climate change in agriculture. Fyteko's biostimulants enhance plant's natural processes to increase crops tolerance to abiotic or agronomic stress and ultimately improve crop quality and yield. Their novel products are developed as foliar sprays and seed coatings. Selected by Innoviris in Brussels in 2015 as one of Brussels' most innovative startup (Rise Grant), Fyteko has protected its invention, upscaled its process and has 2 formulations which are currently being field tested in various geographical markets. The first formulation is designed to help seedling establishment and have a long term effect on crops. The second, a water soluble liquid concentrate for spray foliar application aims for a shorter term but increased protection toward abiotic stress.



MATHYM Mathym is a nanotechnology company specialized in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of innovative nanomaterials (colloidal solutions) dedicated to biomedical applications.

Mathym has first developed an ytterbium fluoride (YbF₃) colloidal solution to be used as a radiopacifier additive in dental and orthopedic materials formulation.

Mathym has demonstrated its ability to enter and succeed R&D partnerships with world leaders of the medical device sector. Commercialization of YbF₃ colloidal solutions will begin in May 2017, after implementation of the manufacturing pilot line.

A second product, a ZrO₂-based colloidal solution destined to the dental prosthesis market, based on 3-D material printing is expected to be commercialized in late 2018.



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