

THE INNOVATION FUND

NEWSLETTER #04 ————— AUGUST 2016



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF JUNE 14, 2016

On June 14, the capital of the Innovation Fund was raised to 20,0 Mo € thanks to additional contributions from KULeuven and Monticello.

The fund is now closed and being actively invested.

MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KU LEUVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



“THE BELGIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IS VIBRANT AND DYNAMIC. IN ORDER TO CONTINUOUSLY SUSTAIN AND DEVELOP ITS GLOBAL COMPETITIVE POSITION, A STRONG AND DEDICATED INVESTMENT IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION IS NEEDED. THAT IS WHY THE CREATION OF THE INNOVATION FUND, FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN THE ESSENCIA ECOSYSTEM UNDER THE INSPIRING LEADERSHIP OF MR. FRANÇOIS CORNELIS, IS A RELEVANT, TIMELY AND VISIONARY ENDEAVOUR. LEUVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IS PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS JOURNEY. THE INNOVATION FUND ALLOWS OUR COMPANIES, OUR UNIVERSITIES AND OUR RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS TO JOINTLY AND VIGOROUSLY PURSUE BOTH THE RENEWAL AND THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR HISTORICALLY STRONG INDUSTRY BASE IN CHEMISTRY. THE FUND IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.”



1. What is your Background?

I am a civil engineer (University of Ghent) and obtained a doctorate in management sciences at the University of Ghent after a period of research at the MIT Sloan School of Management. After my PhD I did a post-doc at MIT. I worked several years as a part-time lecturer at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and became professor at the University of Leuven in 1995.

My research focuses on technology and innovation management and policy, the development of indicators to measure the relationship between science and technology progress and its economic impact and the role that entrepreneurship in universities plays in the economic development.

In 2005, I was appointed General Manager of KU Leuven, responsible for the general and central departments. As Executive Director of KU Leuven Research & Development, I strongly support the transfer of KU Leuven knowledge and technology to companies and society. I'm also the Chairman of the KU Leuven Gemma Frisius Fund and the co-founder and Chairman of Leuven.Inc, the innovation network of Leuven high-tech entrepreneurs. As an expert in innovation I was involved in many initiatives of Flanders in Action; in 2013 I succeeded Koen Geens as Chairman of the Raad van Wijzen.

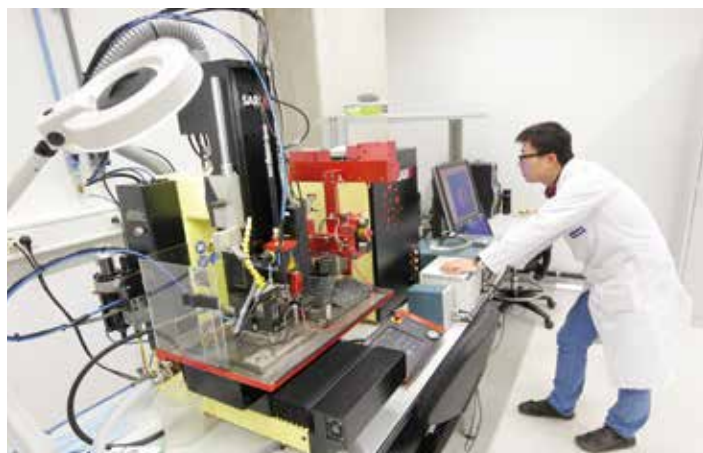
2. Why did KU Leuven Research & Development invest in the Innovation Fund?

At LRD, we have the experience of co-investing in other funds as well: we have invested in Vesalius BioCapital, Capricorn, V-Bio ventures (VIB), Fund+... The purpose of the Innovation Fund is perfectly aligned with that of LRD: to boost innovation and entrepreneurship among researchers and students, to facilitate the creation and growth of start-ups and to foster knowledge-driven regional development. The Innovation Fund focuses on chemistry and life sciences, two sectors that are also of key interest for LRD.



THE INNOVATION FUND

A LARGE INVESTOR: KU LEUVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (LRD)



KU Leuven has a strong international reputation for research and knowledge & technology transfer excellence. In June 2016, Reuters ranked KU Leuven as Europe's most innovative university. Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge follow KU Leuven in the Reuters ranking of Europe's top 100 innovative universities.

KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD), the university's technology transfer office, annually signs more than 2,000 new agreements with research partners in view of valorization. LRD has also supported the creation of 112 spin-off companies, directly employing more than 4,100 people. These spin-off companies constitute a significant economic leverage for the Leuven region. In the period from 2005 to 2015, the university invested 9.9 million euro in its spin-off companies, while in the same period about 800 million euro of external capital was raised.

EDITH COUNE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF BIR&D

Edith Coune, General Secretary of the Innovation Circle and the Innovation Fund has been appointed on March 1, 2016 General Secretary of BiR&D. BiR&D is the association of international companies with major operations and R&D activity in Belgium. Its mission is to attract and retain industrial R&D centres in Belgium through an active network with universities, knowledge institutes and incubators.

Edith Coune's Master in Economics from UNamur, her experience as communication manager at BASF, her fundraising for the Innovation fund prepared very well for this new mission.

The Innovation Circle and the Innovation Fund feel honoured by this nomination and congratulate Edith Coune on her appointment.



INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

TRENDMINER

TrendMiner was founded in 2008 as a research spin-off from KULeuven; it has developed an application which analyses and monitors in real time the temporal series of industrial production parameters (pressure, temperature, ...). TrendMiner is used to diagnose production anomalies and predict production deviation by using recognition of historical patterns and search of similar historical behaviour. TrendMiner "learns" by enhancing the experience provided by the operator and is recognised as a pioneer in self-service analytics by many industry experts. TrendMiner is under test and production with 25% of the Global TOP50 chemical companies like Total, BASF, Solvay and others. It employs 28 people in its offices in Hasselt and Houston (Texas) and has set-up its first sales partnerships in Canada, South-Africa and Australia.



X4C

X4C is a spin-off from ULB, active in Materials technology.

X4C has developed a new technology for applying a single layer on a substrate and for the post-functionalising of the substrate. This concept leads to a strong covalent bond between the substrate and the functional element.

The technology was developed in the organic chemistry laboratory of the Free University of Brussels under the direction of Professor Ivan Jabin.



Chief editor
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