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Effective paths for commercialisation of knowledge – a conference summary

How to most effectively convert research findings into commercial products useful for industry and for each of us? Solutions enabling effective transfer of knowledge were discussed at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, where the conference "Platform for Commercialisation of Knowledge" just took place.

Specific solutions allowing for effective transfer of research findings to industry were presented during the conference "Platform for Commercialisation of Knowledge" held at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC PAS) in Warsaw. The conference was organised thanks to the EU NOBLESSE grant.

"It's not the role of research institutes to set up and operate spin-off companies. The institutes should be primarily responsible for creating a creative environment, where the creators of knowledge will be interested in establishing spin-offs by themselves", stressed in the opening address Prof. Robert Holyst, the Director of the IPC PAS.

One of the topics discussed during the conference was the functioning of the Innovation Corps – a project team at the IPC PAS responsible for evaluation of projects presented by researchers and conversion of the projects into feasible business models, adequately tailored to specific investor needs.

"The Innovation Corps' role is to provide support for both the researchers from our Institute and the prospective investors. The latter are in a much better position to make decisions if they see business concepts ready for use", said Agnieszka Tadrzak from the IPC PAS.

Another topic discussed during the conference was the activity and achievements of the spin-off companies established at the IPC PAS after the 2010 amendment of the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences that enabled the institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences to have shares in companies commercialising inventions. Scope Fluidics, the first spin-off established in the PAS structures after the amendment, works on the development of a biochemistry analyser capable of analysing from a few up to over a dozen of biochemical parameters of blood or other patient's body fluid. The work to launch the production of the apparatus is underway; it will be launched to the

market by Cormay in a non-distant future. Due to small size, easy operation, short testing time and low price the instrument could be offered not only to small clinics but even to individual medical practices.

“The work conducted at Scope Fluidics resulted in innovative mathematical methods for quantitative diagnostic assays. To further develop these techniques, a new company was established”, said Dr Piotr Garstecki, the managing director of Curiosity Diagnostics. This new spin-off employs at present a group of engineers and biochemists focusing their efforts on the development of prototype diagnostic and laboratory devices. The team’s activity is observed by a few global players specialising in manufacturing diagnostic equipment.

It was many times stressed during the conference, how important in the development of technology companies is the role played by a stimulating environment, and how important for building the culture of academic entrepreneurship are the activities similar to those taken by the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the PAS towards establishing science parks in Warsaw.

The conference “Platform for Commercialisation of Knowledge” was completed with a poster session.

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The Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (http://www.ichf.edu.pl/) was established in 1955 as one of the first chemical institutes of the PAS. The Institute's scientific profile is strongly related to the newest global trends in the development of physical chemistry and chemical physics. Scientific research is conducted in nine scientific departments. CHEMIPAN R&D Laboratories, operating as part of the Institute, implement, produce and commercialise specialist chemicals to be used, in particular, in agriculture and pharmaceutical industry. The Institute publishes approximately 200 original research papers annually.

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LINKS:

http://ichf.edu.pl/pkw/
The website of the conference “Platform for Commercialisation of Knowledge”.

http://ichf.edu.pl/IChF-patenty_oferowane.html
Patents and patent applications offered by the IPC PAS.

http://www.ichf.edu.pl/
The website of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

http://www.ichf.edu.pl/press/
Press releases of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

IMAGES:

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Participants of the conference “Platform for Commercialisation of Knowledge” held at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw discussed problems related to the transfer of research findings to industry. (Source: IPC PAS, Grzegorz Krzyżewski)