

« Innovation by Cooperation »



Dr Peter Simkens
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Résumé de la conférence

In order to bring a product successfully to the market, the product shall be innovative and time-to-market shall be kept short. The innovation value of a product increases when new functionalities are included, or when functionalities are being combined. However, the development of such new and multifunctional products is complex, and not all required technologies might be available under the same roof. And in-house development of the missing technologies is often very time-consuming, resulting in a long time-to-market. Therefore, cooperation with partners who have complementary skills, competencies or technologies, is required.

Good ideas for new products may also arise elsewhere: nobody has the patent on good ideas. Therefore, an open innovation environment where research and development teams are open for cooperation with external partners also stimulates innovation. Complementarity of available skills, competencies, technologies or services is a basic characteristic of a good cluster. Moreover, a good cluster embraces the principles of open innovation. Therefore, participation in a cluster can significantly increase the success in commercialization of new products. If the cluster also includes a managed networking organization, this will help the participants of the cluster to rapidly find the right partners for joint research and development activities.

Au sujet de M. Simkens

Peter Simkens was born in Belgium in 1961, and holds a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (1984) and a PhD about “3D graphical simulation of sensor controlled robots” (1990), both obtained from K.U.Leuven. During more than 10 years, Peter Simkens was involved in development projects for the European Space Agency, including the development of training and simulation facilities for European astronauts, and the development of real-time IT-systems for ground control systems, test benches, on-board software for satellites, training simulators and earth observation data processing centers. He was project engineer, project manager and business development manager at Sabena Technics and Trasys Space.

In 1998, Peter Simkens became managing director of DSP Valley, the technology network for the design of micro-electronics hardware and embedded software for signal processing applications, headquartered in the university town of Leuven. He developed DSP Valley to an outstanding business and research cluster, where all participants are connected through strategic partnerships. Currently, he is developing the internationalization of this cluster, by setting up an international network of networks, enabling inter-cluster matchmaking opportunities for the network participants.

Une invitation de



Le 25 février 2009 à 18h30

Centre culturel de l'Université de Sherbrooke (information à www.MicroTeQ10.com)