

# Liège creative – a new experience for boosting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship on campus

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# Liège : some figures

- **Liège : City of 600.000 in a Province of 1 Mio**
- **Industrial tradition : steel, mines, mechanics, energy**
- **Long and deep crisis from the 70's till the 90's**
- **New developments**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> harbour in UE, 7<sup>th</sup> airport for freight, HS train, Highways**
  - **Logistics : 100 Mios inhabitants within 3 hours drive**
  - **Aeronautics and space industry**
  - **Imaging technology – ICT**
  - **Environment technologies – water treatment technologies**
  - **Biotechnology**
  - **Culture historical sites – musea - new station**
  - **Green energy**
  - **Materials**

# The University of Liège : some figures

- **Grounded in 1496, state university in 1817**
- **11 faculties : the only complete state university in W-B**
- **22.000 students**
- **Campus in Liège, Gembloux, Arlon**
- **Open to the Euregio M-R, and Great Region (Lu, De, Fr)**
- **600 professors, 3000 scientists**
- **University Hospital (4000 employees)**
- **400 Mio€ total budget (50% for research)**
- **1000 concurrent research contrats (70 FP7)**
- **45 Mio€/year direct contracting from companies**
- **Science park with 100 high tech companies**
- **100 spin-off companies grounded**
- **25 patents a year – 20 licences a year**



# Interface Entreprises-Université

## Les 4 domaines d'actions

### Collaborations Enterprises-University

- Matchmaking laboratories and companies
- Partnership scouting
- Support for building projects
- Poles of Competitiveness

### Science Park and Regional Development

- Technology networking – clustering
- Conference, exchange programs, technology forums,
- Interregional projects

### Knowledge Transfer

- Technology scouting and assessment
- IP Management
- Tech Transfer and licensing
- Spin off creation

### Continous Education For Companies

- Science and Technology seminars
- Tailor made continuous Education

## Background of ULg-Interface

- **1989 : Founded by ULg, with several company associations, und funded by large companies**
- **1994 : Supported by EU (Feder, FSE)**
- **1998 : IP regulations, TT official start**
- **1998 : set up of Gesval sa (TT)**
- **1999 : creation of Spinventure sa (Seed capital)**
- **2001 : WSL incubator**
- **2005 : WBC incubator**
- **2007 : Mirval project : interuniv TT**

# Cross fertilisation ...

## How to deal with ?

- **89-94 : letting labs known by industry, SME's specially; proactive visits into SME's : University show interest to SMEs**
- **93-03 : local clustering activities : Aerospace, Biotechnology, Energy, Water, Logistics, Nutrition, Imaging technology, ... : now 6 poles of competitiveness, 14 clusters in Wallonia**
- **03-10 : Innovation breakfasts, conferences, opening doors of laboratories**
  
- **How to emphasize these interactions ?**

# Cross fertilisation ...

## 3 new programs

- **2007 : launching an initiative of continuous education for companies (technology wise)**
  - Non academic programs (short or long seminars)
  - Can be tailor made program for large companies
  - Companies can be refunding partially (education technology vouchers)
  - Program set up with industry
- **2009 : launching of the “Lab In’sight” concept**
  - All Walloon universities together, on a specific theme
  - Dedicated to SME’s
  - One lab is hosting the event, with a visit
  - Other labs are visited virtually (video)
  - Than Match making event
  - Ex : Imaging in health, food quality, biomaterials, ...
- **Nov 2011 : Liege Creative**

# Cross fertilisation ...

## Liege Creative

- **Common project : University, companies, public services, cultural institutions, ...**
- **An umbrella for boosting creativity, Innovation and entrepreneurship**
- **Aim to connecting creative people, wherever they are, what position they have**
  - A shared agenda for events
  - Web 2.0
  - Young style approach, full interactivity, low pricing
  - Breakfasts, conference-lunches, evening conference
  - An event every two days in the Colonster Castle (in the Science P)
- **11 mixed program committees are involved**
  - Agrofood, human health, culture, entrepreneurship, engineering, environment, human sciences, materials, ICT, city evolution
  - 120 people involved
  - Team of 3 FTE to launch the system, and to have companies as partners
- **840 participants in 42 events after 6 monthes**



Proton-TII Conference, Copenhagen, April 24, 2012



## Some outputs ...

### Partenarial research projects

- **Project for set up new theatral and opera productions, more fitted to the web media**
- **Biomimetism materials (functional coatings of steel f.i.) applied to semiconductors**
- **Functional robots developed by students**
- **New projects for recycling rare materials**

# Thank you for your attention

- [www.interface.ulg.ac.be](http://www.interface.ulg.ac.be)
- [www.liegecreative.be](http://www.liegecreative.be)

