

SUMMARY OF THE LAUNCH CONFERENCE

May 6th 2009 Bratislava



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1. AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

1 Opening

- i. Ivan Chodak opens the meeting and excuses Dr. Luby (SAS) who could not attend.

2 Good-practice Central European TT-models

- i. Current Situation and Options for Slovakia by M. Bruncko, Neulogy, Bratislava, Slovakia
The presentation content is illustrated in the attachment (presentation #10)
- ii. Technology transfer at University of Debrecen by T. Bene, University of Debrecen, Hungary
The presentation content is illustrated in the attachment (presentation #11)
- iii. Technology Transfer Activities within Technology Centre ASCR by J. Janosek, Technology Centre ASCR, Czech Republic
The presentation content is illustrated in the attachment (presentation #12)
- iv. The Hungarian history of ValDeal - Peter Csikos, ValDeal, Budaörs, Hungary
The presentation content is illustrated in the attachment (presentation #9)
- v. The situation in Slovakia – F. Simančík, UMMS SAV, Bratislava, Slovakia
This presentation mentioned the situation at the Institute of materials & machine mechanics at the Slovak academy of sciences in Bratislava. This institute collaborates extensively with European industry in R&D-projects of various types.

3 CERIM presentation

- i. Rüdiger Werp, PVA-MV AG, Rostock, Germany presented the CERIM project. The presentation content is illustrated in the attachment (presentation #13)

4 Panel discussion

- i. See summary below

2. SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION

During the afternoon of the launch conference a panel discussion was held regarding how to perform effective TT, who will benefit from it, and problems and possible solutions with the TT situation in Central Europe and in Slovakia especially.

Key issues

The following key issues shall be seen as a summary of the panel discussion.

- Key issues for the success of TT are to have motivated and skilled business people within the organization of the TTI, a well-functional valorisation system (plan) and clear IP-agreements between inventors and research institution already in beginning of the commercialisation process.
- Key issues of the CERIM project should be to work with the commercialisation of specific cases, to find a way to protect intellectual property when lacking sufficient financial resources and to develop models for the transfer of knowledge into the creation of spin-offs suitable for the conditions in Slovakia.
- Problem with the Slovakian TT situation are for example that;
 - Researcher lack existing contacts to companies since former directors and managers at these companies have been substituted by foreigners who do not see the necessity to cooperate with local scientists. Additionally, new companies are not aware of the possibilities and potential of the Slovakian science.
 - The directors of the research institutions in Slovakia are responsible for how to manage IP but they cannot create spin-off companies under current legislative status.

Notes

The following are notes about what was mentioned during the discussion, written by M. Janek (Institute of Technology, SAS) and modified by Robin Grankvist (inno AG).

An introduction to the subject was held by professor I. Chodák (SAS).

Mr. J. Janošec stressed the point raised by Prof. Chodák that a key issue for the success of TT is to have skilled business people within the organizational structure of a TTI. We are currently in the stage where we can educate people working in the TT area in business related subjects.

Mr. F. Simančík discussed that one of the CERIM-project's outputs beside the case studies should be the development of working schemes as models tailored to Central European countries and adjusted to the conditions we have here (in Slovakia, editors note). E.g. find a way to protect intellectual property when

lacking sufficient financial resources, or models for the transfer of knowledge into the creation of spin-offs, suitable for the conditions in Slovakia.

Mr. I. Hapala noted that he would appreciate the presence of people from government at the CERIM conference and pointed to the fact, that it is difficult to perform applied research in an environment where institutions only are evaluated by their published research results.

Mr. P. Csikos responded that the success of a TTI is limited by the motivation of all workers engaged, including yourself and co-workers sitting in laboratory beside you.

Mr. I. Chodák asked the audience to comment more focused on the basic research and on who could use the results that the scientists are producing.

Mr. P. Csikos noted that it is necessary to build up a valorisation plan (system) which helps to valorise potentially applicable results which are passing through a TT office. Such a system should be different from a grant schemes.

Mr. F. Simančík added that a TT office should create conditions to simplify the TT itself. If we want to live in a knowledge based economy we have to live from the knowledge we are able to sell, hence it is necessary to remove obstacles in the way of selling our knowledge.

Mr. J. Sedlák noted that there should be a higher press on politicians to show them that they can use the produced knowledge therefore they need the knowledge. Mr. P. Csikos commented that parallel to political decisions to invest in motorways, there should also be decisions to invest in knowledge.

Mr. I. Chodák asked the audience to comment on the peculiarity in transfer of biomedical disciplines which are close to the task of the Molecular-medicine centre of SAS specialized in this scientific area.

Mrs. E. Kutejová stressed that the problem is to cooperate with companies in Slovakia as there are no existing contacts to old companies and new ones are not aware of the possibilities and potential of the Slovakian science. Mr. I Chodák commented on the problem of personal turnover in companies as many of the former directors and managers were substituted by foreigners who do not see the necessity to cooperate with local scientists.

Mr. J. Jerz raised the question if TT can be profitable. The efficiency of the TT office can only be quantified with difficulties and depends on the IP policy and patent management.

Mr. T. Bene noted that it is important to make clear at the beginning of the IP management process who will be the owner of the considered IP. Parent institution has to declare its rights and relationship to the future IP.

Mr. F. Simančík commented that in Slovakia the owner of IP is the state. The directors of the research institutions such as SAS are responsible for how the IP will be managed; however, the institutes cannot create spin-off companies under current legislative status.

Mr. T. Bene discussed that it is important to stop practices which are not supporting TT and it is necessary to start with new regulations under current legislative e.g. profit division regarding how much the institute and the inventor shall receive respectively etc.

Mr. I. Chodák commented that the distribution of the income from a licensed/sold innovation differs substantially in various organisations, even in the same institution. As an example of an institute at SAS, the distribution is 20 % for the institute and 80 % for the department of the inventor (part of this amount can be paid as an extra bonus to involved people).

Mr. M. Janek noted that it is important for us to declare the way and procedures of how we want to change current situation and avoid mistakes which can be introduced in the TT process. Importantly at this moment is also the legislative initiative which would create more favourable conditions for TT from scientific institutions.