

Innovative Entrepreneurship via Spin-offs of Knowledge Centres

International Symposium, in the context of the Flemish Thinkers program of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts - KVAB

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Chair: Flemish Thinker of the Academy 2015, Erik Tambuyzer
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The number of start-up enterprises in Flanders have decreased lately, while the number of spin-offs from knowledge centres have increased. There are numerous initiatives in Flanders, Belgium and Europe that seek to promote business start-ups. The Class of Technical Science (KTW) and the Class of Natural Science (KNW) of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB) published a position paper specifically on spin-offs arising from knowledge centres, therefore making an immediate link to innovation. These spin-offs are located mainly in the high-tech world such as biotechnology and ICT as well as in energy, environmental technologies and service sectors. The report contains recommendations for knowledge centres, government, business and education.

To valorise the content of this paper, a one day symposium will be dedicated to this topic, in the context of the Flemish Thinkers program of the Academy. Erik Tambuyzer, one of the authors of the Academy's position paper, will be the Flemish Thinker chairing this symposium.

PROGRAM

10.30 General session

- Welcome and introduction by the Chair
Erik Tambuyzer - member KVAB/KTW
Innovative Entrepreneurship via Spin-offs of Knowledge Centres: the Academy's Position paper
- **David Mair** - Joint Research Centre European Commission
(Science-based) Entrepreneurship in the EU policy agenda
- **Rudy Cuyvers** - KU Leuven R&D
Spin-off creation @KU Leuven: key ingredients/success factors & policy
- **Frank Beckx** - essenscia
Building a stronger partnership between industry and education
- **Guy Lejeune** - DG Employment European Commission
The innovative side of inclusive entrepreneurship
- **Richard Hudson** - Science/Business Brussels
Innovative Clusters: An international perspective

12.15 Financing & risk taking

- **Isabelle Cardinael** - KBC Securities
Access to risk capital for spin-offs and start-ups
- **Christian Policard** - BDC, Paris
Financing and risk taking in Biotech / Medtech projects

12.45 Q&A - moderated by **Richard Hudson**

13.00 Networking Lunch

14.30 Life Sciences

- **Koen De Witte** – reMYND
Creating a flock of positive black swans
- **Jarek Oleszczuk** – AbbVie
The view of a global biopharma company towards collaborations with spin-offs in Flanders
- **Sam Possemiers** – ProDigest
ProDigest, from startup to product leader in the field of gastrointestinal models and processes

15.15 Q&A - moderated by **Walter Eevers**

15.30 ICT

- **Herman Verrelst** – Cartagena
 - **Peter Wharton** – Huawei
The view of a large ICT company towards collaborations with spin-offs in Flanders
 - **Bob Grietens** – Xenics
15 Years Xenics, from start up to growth
- 16.15 Q&A - moderated by **Johan Cardoen**

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Panel discussion

Role of spin-offs in society and in anchoring of knowledge

- **Charles Hirsch** – member KVAB, Numeca
- **Willy Verstraete** – member KVAB, LabMET
- **Johan Cardoen** – VIB
- **Jos Peeters** – Capricorn
- **Walter Eevers** – VITO
- **Ludo Deferm** – imec

Moderated by **Bart De Moor** – member KVAB, ESAT-STADIUS KU Leuven-iMinds

17.45 Conclusions by the Chair - Erik Tambuyser

18.00 Farewell and Networking Reception

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General session

Erik Tambuyzer – member KVAB/KTW,
Chairman BioPontis Alliance for Rare Diseases, President ABConsult bvba

Dr. Erik Tambuyzer is currently Chair of the foundation BioPontis Alliance for Rare Diseases (Rayleigh, NC, USA and in founding stage in Brussels, Belgium) set up to develop the first therapies for some neurological rare diseases. Previously he has been the Chair of the Board of the Flemish Centre for bioMedical Innovation (CMI), working on translational biomedical research & biobanking. He was Senior Vice President of Genzyme Corporation (1992-2011), Chair of EuropaBio, the European biotech industry association, and founder and Vice-Chair of the European Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science and Industry. He was co-founder and general manager of Innogenetics NV (1985-1992). He is a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and the Arts. Erik Tambuyzer is a bioengineer with Ph.D. in chemistry and crystallography from KU Leuven university.



Innovative Entrepreneurship via Spin-offs of Knowledge Centers: the Academy's Position paper

The number of start-up enterprises in Flanders decreased, while the number of spin-offs from knowledge centres increased. Based on this finding, a working group of the Technical Sciences Class (KTW) and of the Natural Sciences Class (KNW) of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and the Arts decided to write a position paper about spin-offs from knowledge centres, making a link to innovation.

The members of the working group are: Roel Baets, Yvan Bruynseraede, Bart De Moor, Dirk Franssaer, Jean-Pierre Henriët, Charles Hirsch – co-chair, Erik Tambuyzer – co-chair, Willy Verstraete.

Thanks also to our external advisors Johan Cardoen (VIB), Jos Peeters (Capricorn Venture Partners), Yves Fassin (EVCA), Patrick Dhaese and Patrick Vankwikelberge (TTO Ghent university). You will find back many of these contributors in the program of today.

Knowledge centres should actively scout for entrepreneurship talent in their talent pools. Even in high-tech sectors an excellent social and fiscal environment is of the utmost importance for would-be entrepreneurs to dare to take the risk. Politicians and policy makers should create a climate that better values entrepreneurship, puts it in the spotlight and promotes it. Above all, continuity in policies concerning entrepreneurs and enterprises is a must, across sequential government or different legislatures.

Also the business world and the world of education play an important role. A sense of entrepreneurship deserves attention at all levels of education. This may be achieved by a stronger and more structured interaction between industry and education right from the start, at young age.

The final success rate of spin-offs depends on many factors. The most important factor

is the quality of the starting core team. The ethical dimension of entrepreneurship increases in importance. And there are several other factors that play a large role in maximizing the success rate of a spin-off, such as a sufficient incubation period for a new enterprise, and tolerance for failure.

Government and knowledge centres should also work together to develop a policy that allows for a sufficiently long incubation period for spin-offs, such that the social and economic impact of the spin-offs increases.

And finally, the anchoring of knowledge is more important than of structures, for the long-term creation of wealth and societal benefits of spin-offs from knowledge centres.



David Mair – Acting Director for Policy Support Coordination, Joint Research Centre European Commission

David has worked for the European Commission since 1995 and in the Joint Research Centre (the Commission's in-house science service) since 2011 as Head of Unit responsible for science advice to policy and the JRC Work Programme, in particular in the area of Growth, the Economy, Safety and Security. From 2011-2013 he was also responsible for foresight in the JRC. He has been Acting Director for Policy Support Coordination since April 2015.

From 1998 to 2011 he worked in DG Health and Consumers, involved in policy strategy, enforcement issues and consumer research, data and statistics. From 2007 to 2011 he was Head of Unit for consumer market monitoring and analysis, responsible for the Consumer Markets Scoreboard and work on consumer behaviour. Before the Commission he worked for the UK Treasury in Brussels and London and has also worked in the City of London as a corporate financier and in the British Army. He studied History at Cambridge University. He is married with two daughters.

(Science-based) Entrepreneurship in the EU policy agenda

Entrepreneurship, including through spin-offs, has potential impact on job creation, innovation, economic growth and competitiveness.

The importance of strengthening entrepreneurship for sustainable growth is acknowledged by many political actors in the current political climate. On the other hand, much less young Europeans find self-employment options feasible or attractive, compared to those in the US and the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) countries. In order to tackle this gap, initiatives promoting a more and inclusive entrepreneurial culture, especially among knowledge centres are of paramount importance, along with measures of mentoring and financial support.

Evidence suggests that number of spin-offs created is not the most appropriate indicator to build policy measures on. Europe performs just as well as the most

advanced ecosystems for this indicator. There is however evidence gap on the survival and growth capacity of science-based entrepreneurs. Therefore, the question should not be what policy makers can do to support creation of more spin-offs. It is rather how to support creation of those spin-offs that are resilient and tend to grow. In addition, there is the need to develop a common conceptual approach on what key entrepreneurial competences are in order to develop and assess appropriate measures in the field of entrepreneurial education.

Rudy Cuyvers – KU Leuven Research & Development

Rudi Cuyvers, born in 1964, holds a Ph.D. in Electronics Engineering (KU Leuven) and an M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship (Flanders Business School). Already during his Ph.D. he was actively involved with multiple innovation projects in collaboration with industry. In 1996 he joined KU Leuven Research & Development. Currently, he is the head of the spin-off & innovation unit which supports the creation & growth of spin-offs but also actively contributes to the creation of a supportive high-tech eco-system. He has been involved in the setting-up of more than 50 spin-offs. By being part of the board of directors in multiple spin-offs, he is also actively supporting the growth of start-ups.



Spin-off creation @KU Leuven: key ingredients/success factors & policy

The KU Leuven has a long tradition in spin-off creation. Already in 1972 the KU Leuven has created a specialised Technology Transfer Office, KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD), which supports university-industry collaboration, management of Intellectual Property and spin-off creation. Meanwhile 107 spin-offs have been created employing more than 4.000 people in the region, many of them having an international leading position. First the presentation zooms in on the key ingredients/success factors with respect to university spin-offs. Next the different elements & instruments of the spin-off policy @KU Leuven are introduced.

Frank Beckx – Managing Director essenscia Vlaanderen

On January 1, 2014 Frank Beckx (*1980) was appointed Managing Director of essenscia Vlaanderen, the Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences Industries. He joined essenscia in 2008 as spokesman and Head of Communication & Public Affairs.

After taking a law degree at Leuven University, Frank Beckx started his career in 2003 as legal advisor to the office of the Flemish Minister Marino Keulen. A year later he had become spokesman for Minister Keulen, whose portfolio at the time covered Home Affairs, Housing and Integration. Between 2005 and



2007 he was spokesman for Fientje Moerman, Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade.

Frank Beckx is also member of the STEM Platform advising the Flemish Government on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(STEM) issues.

Building a stronger partnership between industry and education

Increasing awareness among young people on the importance of sciences, and more specifically chemistry and life sciences, is a priority mission for essencia. The chemical and life sciences industry is a major employer in Flanders with nearly 60,000 direct employees. Due to demographic change, the workforce in our industry is ageing and there will be a high number of employees retiring within the next 5 years. The ongoing need for workforce means that a large number of scientific and technical profiles need to be replaced. Therefore, a strong partnership between the industry and education is needed, at all levels.



Guy Lejeune – DG Employment, European Commission, Senior Expert Entrepreneurship

Guy Lejeune has joined the European Commission in 1993. He has assumed different functions in the DG for Economic and Financial Affairs (until mid-2011) and the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (at present).

The innovative side of inclusive entrepreneurship

Inclusive entrepreneurship policy is a policy which tries to understand why specific groups are underrepresented among entrepreneurs and how policies (from the Member States) can mend this lagging. Inclusive entrepreneurship is innovative in the sense that policy support to these underrepresented groups is likely to add value to the economy and the society.

An excellent scientist is not necessarily a good entrepreneur. This is why start-ups, including spin-offs, need a supportive environment, which should be fostered by inclusive entrepreneurship policies. Increasing the entrepreneurship-related content in the whole education system increases the chances that an excellent scientist will also be a successful entrepreneur.

Richard Hudson – CEO of Science/Business Brussels, and former editor of Wall Street Journal Europe

Richard has been a leading science and technology journalist in Europe for 30 years. Since 2005 he has been CEO and Editor of London - and Brussels-based Science Business Publishing Ltd., a media and communications company focused on research and innovation in Europe. He is also President of the Science|Business Innovation Board AISBL, a not-for-profit 'think tank' on innovation policy. Previously, he was with the Wall Street Journal for 25 years, as reporter, technology editor and, from 1997 to 2003, managing editor of the European edition.

He is co-author of a book, now in 11 languages, on "fractal" analysis of financial markets with famed Yale/IBM mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot: *The (mis)Behavior of Markets: A fractal view of risk, ruin & reward.*. He is a graduate of Harvard College, a former Knight Fellow at MIT, and lives in Brussels.



Innovative Clusters: An international perspective

As politicians around the world chase after more economic growth and jobs, their interest is rising in how to build a productive innovation cluster. The policy focus began in the US 50 years ago, and the scale of some American clusters – such as around MIT – is huge today. But there are a growing number of European clusters with different characteristics – such as Stockholm, Berlin and Cambridge. The fundamental obstacles to bigger clusters in Europe is simple: money and market scale. The European political consensus so far blocks radical action on either problem, but there are several strategies for growth that the best European clusters are pursuing, nonetheless.

Financing & risk taking

Isabelle Cardinael – Investment Manager KBC Securities NV

Isabelle started her career within KBC Group as correspondent banker for Latin America. She then moved to KBC Real Estate, where she structured financing for large-scale real estate projects and participated with KBC Real Estate in joint ventures with real estate developers. Since 2013 she represents KBC Bank on the board of university funds and microfinance funds in which KBC Bank participates. Isabelle is member of the board of Obic Fund, Gemma Frisius Fund, Baekeland Fund II, Bi³ Fund, Vives I and of some portfolio companies.



Access to risk capital for spin-offs and start-ups

We observe that entrepreneurship is an emerging trend. Yet, is there sufficient access to risk capital for start-ups and spin-offs? Which role can banks play in the early stage financing of spin-offs and start-ups?

Although banks are not keen on lending to early stage companies, supporting start-up companies is high on the agenda of the financial community. Febelfin, the association of Belgian financial institutions, recently carried out a research on the availability of risk capital in Belgium and the access of start-up companies to risk capital. Based on the outcome of this research, several recommendations are formulated towards the actors in the playing field: investors, government and financial institutions.

Banks aim to be a valuable partner for start-up companies and spin-offs. For this purpose, several banks have set up new initiatives in order to support early stage start-up companies, such as innovative start-up programs and crowdfunding. The initiatives show how banks use their intermediary role to link investors and early stage companies.



Christian Policard – BDC, Former EVP Business Development and Industrial Relationships Institut 'Pasteur worldwide' and former Member

Dr. Policard, a Docteur in Biochemistry, has traversed the spectrum of scientific and business leadership in the biomedical and biopharmaceutical arena. He has been the Executive Vice President at Sanofi-Synthelabo and from 1988 a member of its Worldwide Executive Committee. He was later, from 2000 to 2005 the Executive Vice President Business Development of Institut Pasteur.

Dr. Policard has been a board member of many biotech and pharmaceutical companies in US, UK, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Israël; and presently holds board seats at Sepal, the Association Technion France, France Biotech and The Foundation for The Université De Technologie De Compiègne.

He is since January 2002 one of the three Founders and a Senior Partner of Biotech Development Conseils based in Paris, Tel Aviv, Lausanne, Tokyo and Singapore; and involved in capital fund-raising for biotechnology companies.

Financing and risk taking in Biotech / Medtech projects

To start a new biotech/medtech company is in itself a big risk which needs to be under control by selecting the most competitive science/technology, filing the right patents at the right time and selecting a complementary team. Everything has to be prioritized to obtain the product needed by the market.

The speaker will describe his experience in France and Israel in the last 40 years during which he participated to the start of more than forty companies. His goal will be to convince the attendees that nothing is funnier than to start a high tech company.

Koen De Witte – Managing Director and Director reMYND NV and Flanders

Koen De Witte is the managing director of reMYND, and director at Flanders-Bio. reMYND develops disease-modifying treatments against Alzheimer's, Diabetes, Parkinson's and other protein misfolding disorders. Before joining reMYND, Koen was an Associate Partner at McKinsey & company. Koen holds a M.Sc. from the University of Ghent in Belgium, a M.Sc. from MIT in the US, and an M.B.A. from Insead in France.



Creating a flock of positive black swans

At reMYND NV, a KU Leuven spin-off, we test experimental Alzheimer treatments of our clients in-vivo in our proprietary mouse models and develop our own proprietary disease-modifying treatments against Alzheimer's, Diabetes, Parkinson's and other protein misfolding disorders. In 2002, reMYND was founded as an in-vivo service provider, with the intent to complement the offering with in-vitro screens. These in-vitro screens formed the basis for our own pipeline of proprietary treatments, which is now in 2015 by far our largest activity. This underlines that fundamental innovation requires a supportive environment with a long-term perspective, a flexible attitude, continuously questioning the knowns, and actively managing one's luck. While reMYND has built a client base and scientific network world-wide covering US, Europe and Japan, our operational base remains firmly in Belgium based on a strong combination of scientific excellence, high quality and flexible work-force and many supportive government initiatives.

Jarek Oleszczuk – General Manager AbbVie Belgium & Luxembourg

Dr. Jarek Oleszczuk has been appointed General Manager in Belgium & Luxembourg as from December 1st, 2014. He joined Abbott in 2009 as General Manager Abbott International and then became the founding General Manager for AbbVie Poland in January 2013 when AbbVie was created. During his tenure at AbbVie Poland, Jarek led the organization to become one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical companies in Poland. In his capacity as LAWG Chair, Jarek launched two important initiatives – the Healthy Ageing Coalition and the Indirect Cost Project. Both of these projects led to the publication of a White Book and Report generating significant debate in the public domain. Jarek was Member of the Management Board of INFARMA. He also served as an advisor to EQT, the global private equity company based in Sweden. Before Abbott, Jarek worked for Novartis AG and at McKinsey & Company. He started his career as a Medical Doctor at the Medical University of Lublin, Poland and Research Assistant at the Center for Study of Multiple Births in Chicago.



The view of a global biopharma company towards collaborations with spin-offs in Flanders

AbbVie is a global, research-based biopharmaceutical company formed in 2013 following separation from Abbott Laboratories. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to develop and market advanced therapies that address some of the world's most complex and serious diseases. AbbVie employs approximately 26,000 people worldwide and markets medicines in more than 170 countries. In Belgium & Luxembourg, AbbVie employs approximately 170 people in the offices located in Wavre. For further information on the company and its people, portfolio and commitments, please visit www.abbvie.be or www.abbvie.com. Follow @abbvie on Twitter or view careers on our Facebook or LinkedIn page.



Sam Possemiers – Managing Director ProDigest

Sam Possemiers graduated in 2003 from Ghent University as bioscience engineer. In 2007 he obtained a PhD degree in the field of intestinal microbiology and polyphenol metabolism. In 2008, Sam Possemiers founded ProDigest, a spin-off company from Ghent University, which develops proprietary gut models and provides customized services in the field of gastrointestinal transit, bioavailability and metabolism, to the operators in the food and pharmaceutical sector. He now acts as Managing Director of ProDigest. Since 2007 he is also active as Research Director of BioActor, a health ingredient development company active in age-related disorders.

ProDigest, from startup to product leader in the field of gastrointestinal models and processes

Since its start in 2008 as a spin-off from Ghent University, ProDigest has developed itself into a product leader in the development of unique laboratory models of the human and animal gastrointestinal tract. Without need for animal or human studies, these models allow to obtain unique insight in gut processes associated to the intestinal fate, metabolism and bioavailability of actives and to study the complete gut microbiota under controlled conditions and its link with human and animal health. ProDigest is globally active as a service provider for food, feed and pharmaceutical companies and since 2014 also installs its technology in selected R&D facilities around the world. Furthermore, ProDigest has set up a number of in-house product development projects in relation to microbial biotechnology and gut microbiota management and the development of novel biotherapeutics for disease management. The specific business strategy has allowed successful company development in different fields and to remain financially independent up to today.

Herman Verrelst – Cartagenia

Herman Verrelst holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. He is an experienced entrepreneur, involved with the set up and management of high-tech companies since 1996. Up until recently, Herman was CEO of Cartagenia N.V. a spin-off from the KU Leuven. Prior to Cartagenia, Herman was CEO of Medicim N.V., which was acquired by Swiss-based Nobel Biocare AG in August 2008, and Director of European Operations at Norkom Technologies. He joined Norkom in November 2004 after Norkom's acquisition of DATA4s, another spin-off of the KU Leuven, which Herman founded in January 2000 based on the results of his research work at the ESAT-SISTA/COSIC research laboratory at the KU Leuven where he specialized in artificial intelligence and advanced data analysis.



Cartagenia - Bringing innovative ICT solutions in Life Sciences to an international market

Cartagenia delivers diagnostic knowledge, systems and services to enable genetic labs and clinicians to perform clinically relevant genetic analyses quickly and efficiently, and offer patients and carers high quality genetic interpretation and counseling. On May 19 2015, Cartagenia was acquired by Agilent Technologies (Santa Clara, CA) and was integrated as a new business division focusing on developing and bringing to market innovative bio-informatics driven clinical applications in the field of constitutional diagnosis, oncology and reproductive genetics.

Peter Wharton – AVP, Strategy and Business Development, Huawei

Peter has been with Huawei's strategy and business development department since April 2013, and is responsible for investment and acquisition activity in Europe. He joined Huawei when the company of which he was then CEO, CIP Technologies, was acquired by Huawei in 2011. In his previous career, Peter has been involved in six ICT-related start-up and spin-off companies, including two of which he was the CEO. A software engineer by training, Peter has worked in semiconductors, photonics, wireless and enterprise software.



The view of a large ICT company towards collaborations with spin-offs in Flanders

Huawei is a global telecoms equipment company headquartered in China with more than 150,000 employees and revenues of \$46bn in 2014. Although in the past many of the technological advances were internally developed, the company now seeks to

expand its value chain and ecosystem through investment in outside innovation. Huawei's interests range from core networks technologies such as photonics, network switching and wireless through to corporate data centre technologies and all things related to mobile phone handsets. Huawei cooperates closely with IMEC in Belgium, and has recently acquired two Belgian companies (M4S and CalioPa) and is actively seeking new investment and acquisition opportunities.



Bob Grietens – Xenics

Bob Grietens, born in 1969, is CEO and founder of XenICs. During his tenure, XenICs has grown out of its initial start-up phase and is presently gearing up to volume manufacturing of its most successful products. The company is profitable and finances its research and development activities out of its cash flow. Before, from 1999 to 2000, Mr. Grietens was involved full-time in the preparation of the company's start-up procedures. Prior to laying the groundwork for XenICs, Mr. Grietens has held leading career positions in IMEC's Business Development department, where he administered, from 1997 to 1999, various other successful commercial spin-off initiatives.

Bob Grietens holds a PhD in microelectronics (1997), a Masters Degree in Business Economy and Strategy (1993), as well as a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering, option microelectronics (1992), all from KU Leuven.

15 Years Xenics, from start up to growth

Xenics was founded by Dr. Bob Grietens in 2000 as a commercial spin-off from IMEC, based in Leuven, Belgium. Xenics is active on the world markets for advanced IR imaging products and solutions. The company develops and markets standard OEM products as well as highly demanding custom designs. XenICs is based in Leuven Belgium and operates worldwide. XenICs was conceived by Mr. Grietens as a spin-off from the internationally renowned research center IMEC in Leuven Belgium.

At the time of its incorporation, Xenics had raised an initial capitalization of 3.75 million Euro, plus government funding for specific project work.

At present, company shareholders include major Belgian venture and equity funds such as BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity Belgium, Software Holding & Finance as well as business angels.

In this talk, Bob Grietens will reflect on the start-up and growth of Xenics versus the recommendations made by the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium.

Panel discussion:

Charles Hirsch – member KVAB/KNW, Numeca

Charles Hirsch is founder of Numeca International (Software for Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) design and automation), VUB. He is a member of the KVAB, initiator of the KVAB publication: “Innovative entrepreneurship by spin-offs of knowledge centra”.



Willy Verstraete – member KVAB/KTW, UGent, LabMET

Willy Verstraete is bio-engineer. He has been active in the field of environmental biotechnology and engineering as professor at the Ghent University, LabMET. He always focused on innovative R&D and its implementation in practice. He has directly and indirectly, been instrumental in the start-up of several spin-offs. He ranks in the list of Highly Cited Researchers, due to the fact several of his papers belong to the top 1% most cited papers of his field. W. Verstraete serves in several international science and also business related advisory panels. In 2014, he became chairman of the Cluster on Resource Recovery, of the International Water Association with the task to bridge research and practice in the domain of water recycle technology.



Johan Cardoen – VIB

Johan Cardoen is managing director of VIB. In this responsibility, he was also board member of Pronota and Actogenix. He is board member of Agrosavfe and Multiplicom and member of the investment committee of SOFI Fund. Until May 31, 2012, he was CEO of CropDesign N.V. (Ghent, Belgium), a biotechnology spin-off from VIB; in addition he was Chairman of Flandersbio, the umbrella organization for life sciences and biotechnology sector in Flanders from 2007 until May 2012 and he held an independent board position at arGEN-X BV from 2008-2011. Johan Cardoen received his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Leuven, Belgium (1987) and a business degree from the University of Leuven (1990).



Jos Peeters – Capricorn

Dr. Jos B. Peeters is Founder and Managing Partner of Capricorn Venture Partners, a Leuven based pan-European manager of venture capital funds, currently investing out of its Capricorn Cleantech Fund, its Capricorn Health-tech Fund, its Capricorn ICT Arkiv and managing Quest for Growth, a cross-over fund quoted on Euronext Brussels, and the Quest Management CleantechSicav. Jos is regarded as one of the pioneers of the European



venture capital industry, being active in this area since 1985. He is a founder and director of EASDAO, which is relaunching as Equiduct, a regulated market for secondary trading in Europe. Jos has a PhD in Physics from the University of Leuven.



Walter Eevers – VITO

Dr. Walter Eevers is since September 2013 Commercial Director at VITO. He joined Nitto Europe after receiving his PhD on electrical conductive Polymers from Antwerp University (1993) and was responsible for R&D and business development, until he became General Manager Techno-Marketing. He obtained a Master degree in business administration from Hasselt University (2001) and was the founding father of the company Nitto Denko Europe Technical Centre in Lausanne, dedicated to research activities in medical devices. Walter is since 2011 a member of the advisory board for ReSkin NV and has been a guest speaker since 2008 at the University of Hasselt and the University of Bourgogne, lecturing on R&D management, change management, innovation management and sustainability in an industrial context. Walter is an external Expert for the EU Comission FP7 Marie Curie programme.



Ludo Deferm – imec

Ludo Deferm received his Ph.D. in Electronics and Mechanics in 1989 from the University of Leuven, Belgium. From 1982 to 1985 he was a research assistant at the University of Leuven. In 1985 he joined imec in Belgium. Being Executive Vice-President for Corporate, Business & Public Affairs at imec, Ludo Deferm is responsible for business development worldwide, for the legal and IP/patent group and for the public relations and marketing communications activities. Within the scope of his responsibilities he is actively involved in the creation of new spin-off companies and in the expansion of imec.



Bart De Moor – member KVAB/KTW, ESAT-STADIUS KU Leuven-iMinds

Bart De Moor is a KU Leuven professor with research and teaching activities in numerical linear algebra, system theory, control and identification, and data science (process industry, bioinformatics, clinical decision support systems). He was promotor of more than 80 PhDs so far and received several scientific awards, including the FWO Excellence Award in 2010. He also created 6 spin-off companies and is in the Board of several (international) scientific and cultural agencies. He is a member of the Flanders STEM platform and patron of the Flemish Technology Olympiad.

With special thanks for their contribution:

to the Position Paper

- KVAB Class of Technical Sciences: Bart De Moor, Dirk Fransaeer, Erik Tambuyzer (co-Chair), Willy Verstraete
- KVAB Class of Natural Sciences: Roel Baets, Yvan Bruynseraede, Jean-Pierre Henriet, Charles Hirsch (co-Chair)
- External advice to the Paper: Johan Cardoen (VIB), Jos Peeters (Capricorn Venture Partners), Yves Fassin (EVCA), Patrick Dhaese and Patrick Vankwikelberge (TTO UGhent)

to the Symposium

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Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts
Hertogsstraat 1 - B-1000 Brussels - www.kvab.be - info@kvab.be