

Objective

Encourage university-industry linkages: Co-operation between HEIs and local firms often tends to be limited. Networking, however, can be facilitated by the existence of a co-ordinating organisation, which is considered by local companies as being impartial or at least enabling knowledge and know-how spill-overs.

Exploit innovation through a wider group of firms: Foster collaboration between HEIs and local companies of all sizes as well as with large companies located elsewhere but with relevance for the local value-chain.

Description of the approach (aims, delivery, budget etc)

The GWT-TUD GmbH in Chemnitz, with branches in Dresden and Leipzig (*Gesellschaft für Wissens- und Technologietransfer der TU Dresden mbH*), linked to the University of Dresden where it was founded in 1996, is a leading research service provider for companies and the private sector, which undertakes complex research projects and develops new products and technologies.

The GWT-TUD GmbH in Chemnitz offers an extensive innovation service encompassing engineering, natural sciences and medicine. Its links with the Technology Centre and University of Applied Sciences in Mittweida have contributed to the transfer of technology to new companies. A scheme whereby researchers can be employed at GWT-TUD for up to three years, work under the name of the company they will establish and obtain salary and basic facilities is a practical model of promoting both new enterprise and technology transfer to new businesses. This research centre is a model for other regions and offers the prospect to become more engaged in international markets with its services.

Contact details and website for further information

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¹ Source: Discussion Paper "Entrepreneurship in the Districts Mittweida in Saxony, and Altenburger Land in Thuringia", OECD LEED Programme, September 2006. Adapted in 2007 by Philippe Krott and Dario Montero, trainees at the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local development.