



UPDATE No. 62

December 2005 - For SPICE Group Members only

We wish all members and friends a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous and Happy New Year 2006 with good health, good luck and good friends.

These wishes may come true also for those members and friends not celebrating Christmas and / or beginning the New Year at a different date.



Dear Member,

Another year comes to an end. The Holiday season ahead provides opportunity for reflecting the past year and making plans for the months to come. This Update contains information about the recent KOBIA-SPICE business incubation leadership program and study tour to Europe and the regional business incubation workshop in Armenia – besides news and facts from other parts of the world. Possibly this information helps to create ideas and make plans for the year 2006. If so, just let us know to enable us informing other members of the network.

To remember: The year 2005...

- ...brought an expansion of the SPICE Group network with 4 new members from Croatia, Mexico and New Zealand. Altogether now SPICE Group is represented by **78 members in 41 countries**. 28 national or international associations are represented in the network. Interest in membership is increasing, but the development strategy for our network remains selective to maintain growth in quality rather than quantity. Three members per country remain the general guideline.
- Five SPICE Updates reported on **6 SPICE meetings in 6 countries** (Armenia, Estonia, Slovakia, South Korea, United Kingdom and USA, plus **7 additional events in 5 more countries** (Croatia, Poland, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam) with SPICE involvement and support.
- Actual developments in business incubation in **23 countries** were reported in short articles in SPICE Update – always providing contacts for further information and cooperation.
- The **infoDev Workshop in Washington DC, USA** laid the cornerstone for a series of regional workshops on business incubation and innovation based entrepreneurship – the first of those held **in Kiev, Ukraine** in June
- With a EU sponsored international workshop held in Bratislava, Slovakia the creation of a business incubation network in this country received an important impulse
- The first International conference of SABTIA – **South African Business Incubation Association** was held in September
- First time national business incubation associations of two European countries organized their annual conference together. ADT, Germany and VTOE, Austria took this pioneering initiative
- The beginning of **business incubation networks** in Thailand and Vietnam were marked by capacity building workshops in **Bangkok, Thailand** as well as **Hanoi, Vietnam**
- The **BALTIC DYNAMICS 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia** first time was a combined event with the annual Nordic Science Park conference
- The **KOBIA-SPICE Business Incubation Leadership Program** brought professionals from Korea to Finland, Sweden and UK (after Germany, France and Switzerland last year)
- An international workshop in **Yerevan, Armenia** provided opportunity for presenting the achievements in innovation support and business incubation in this country and for discussing further developments with international experts
- Upgrading and developing the SPICE web site began with a number of new features already available to SPICE Members – more to come...



SPICE in Kiev, Ukraine



SPICE in Zagreb, Croatia



SPICE in Tallinn, Estonia



SPICE in Bratislava, Slovakia



SPICE in Birmingham, UK



SPICE in ... Bangkok, Thailand;



Hanoi, Vietnam,



Cheju + Daegu South Korea;



Washington, USA



Views & facts

Armenia

ViaSphere Technopark

ViaSphere Technopark started in 2001 on the premises of a former semiconductor research facility (Transistor SCJSC). After privatization of these facilities the technopark began activities with 5 companies. Meanwhile 16 tenant firms providing more than 500 qualified ICT jobs are working here. Companies continue to grow and some already moved to locations near the ViaSphere while the technopark is expanding by renovating additional 700 m² of rental space for new firms. In 2006 all 20.000 m² of rental space will be leased.

ViaSphere Technopark is a private company (CJSC) incorporated in Armenia. The technopark has become a model commercial incubator in Armenia. Tenancy includes firms from Canada, the UK, Austria and France and US.

Through close working relationship with ViaSphere International in Silicon Valley, USA, and early involvement in the evolution of post-Soviet high technology in Armenia, ViaSphere Technopark applied combined experiences towards creating a sustainable incubation model in the post-dotcom boom. The partnership between these two incubators is one of the cornerstones to the technopark strategy which is based on linking startups in Armenia with established companies or other startups in the US, Europe, and Far East via subsidiary relationships. This model has proven to be a success until now even in the post dotcom high tech environment. Close cooperation with universities and other academia are considered one of the important success factors.

The Technopark is a hotspot for companies looking to extend their development activities offshore and capitalize on Armenia's technical capabilities. It provides companies, with strategic advantages by providing all necessary facilities, infrastructure, and support services (including LAN and high speed internet access, security, business management, logistics, training, and a commercialization center) supporting companies to achieve speed to market. The campus includes a cafeteria, library, and conference facility; a convention center and a fitness center are planned. ViaSphere has developed its own PW station powered by solar energy to secure the water supply on the park – a very effective approach supporting innovation and business development and at the same time improves services for the science park clients.

ViaSphere extends software R&D as well as manufacturing capabilities through development centers linked to core teams worldwide providing tenant and client companies with significant savings and access to scarce technical resources. The process management of ViaSphere integrates its resources with that of startup companies providing them with product development capabilities and enhancing their project ROI. ViaSphere Technopark has access to highly qualified software development talent, for example in Technology: Electric Design Automation (EDA) Software, Computer Aided Design (CAD) Software, Security and Encryption, Business Process Management, Network Management, Embedded Software, Educational and Gaming Software
Contact: Khachatur Khachikyan, email: khachikyan@viasphere.com



Participants of the regional workshop took advantage of the possibility to visit the ViaSphere Technopark and get a personal impression about the positive development.



Andriy Tarelin, Krzysztof Zasiadly, Vazha Gogniashvili visiting ViaSphere technopark, guided by Khachatur Khachikyan

Russia *Innovation Development in Moscow Region*

October 27, 2005, Troitsk Science City, Moscow region, hosted a Regional Conference "Innovations Development in Moscow region: Priorities, Mechanisms, Experience". Over 200 participants from 30 Moscow region cities and 6 regions (including Tula, Tambov, Leningrad, Kaluga regions, Karelia Republic) gathered to debate how to push forward innovation development. They represented Science, Innovation business, federal and regional authorities, Financial Institutes, innovation infrastructure. The Conference aimed at innovation development facilitating in Moscow region. The organizers of this Conference were Ministry for Industry and Science, Committee for SME Development of Moscow region, Russian Academy of Science, National Agency for Entrepreneurship support "INTECH", Troitsk Administration.

The Conference presented the most recent technological and scientific developments associated with Innovation development problems, emphasizing the practical application of R&D achievements for small business. Such synthesis of knowledge and business, in combination with the integration of high-tech information with economic and social aspects, is prerequisite for sustainable development of small innovation enterprises. Conference and workshop topics covered a wide range of issues from legislation for Innovation, science cities perspectives, and staff preparing for innovation companies, to venture capital, and improved business practices that lead to cost reduction, new products and markets. Technological focuses were Information-telecommunication technologies and electronics, Innovation technologies in Construction and housing and communal services, Laser technologies in medicine, and Advanced materials

The principal outcome of the conference is that it worked out the recommendations on how to improve the elements of Moscow region Innovation System to be formed in the context of the national system of innovations and how to use the accumulated scientific, technical, intellectual and industrial potential more efficiently.

Belarus *Scientific-innovative policy in the regions of Belarus*

In October the Republican Scientific-Practical Conference «Scientific-innovative policy in the regions of Belarus» was held in Grodno, Belarus with 76 participants from state bodies, high schools, enterprises and organizations, subjects of innovative infrastructure, and mass-media. It was devoted to the problems of realization of scientific-innovative policy in Belarus. An exhibition of scientific, technical and innovative developments of the organizations of Grodno region complemented the conference.

More efficient use of the scientific and technical potential of the country is impossible without active participation of the regions. Therefore much attention is paid to the regional scientific and technical policy. During recent years directions and tools for implementing this policy have been developed in Belarus, such as regional scientific and technical programs, innovation support infrastructure (new technological parks, business-incubators, centers of technology transfer), programs for improving qualification of the scientific staff, information and patent-license maintenance of scientific, technical and innovative activity.

V.A. Molochkov, Director of the joint-stock company «Technological park Mogilev» presented experience from operating the regional technopark as well as from the competition of innovative projects (<http://www.technopark.by/konkurs>) initiated by the technopark. This competition should not only raise the innovative activity in the region, but also to serve as an element of monitoring the market of innovative proposals. The full information on discussed questions (35 articles) can be found in the collected articles published to the beginning of the conference available on the website of the Interuniversity Center of Marketing (ICM) (www.icm.by) in the section "Methods" (in Russian).

An important result of the conference is agreement on recommendations covering a wide spectrum of measures to be taken by state authorities, e.g. better coordination of state activities for improving organizational, methodical, and financial, information supply of scientific, technical and innovative activity in the regions. Furthermore it was stated that implementation of new and development of existing innovation support structures (technoparks, incubators, technology transfer units) is needed, including the formation of a **Belarusian association of scientific-technological parks and innovative centers** to better coordinate their activity and exchange of operational experience between working and formed subjects of innovative infrastructure. Especially expansion of Internet based services, for example of the Republican Center of Technology Transfer and ICM as well as innovation competitions in all regions of Belarus are needed. A focus should be out on developments in the regions by organizing frameworks of regional scientific and technical programs, audit and annual monitoring of innovative requirements and opportunities of economy of the regions as well as recommending to the regional executive committees to generate regional programs of innovative development of economy. To continue the process initiated by this conference in 2006 continuation should be secured by holding a thematic international conference and exhibition of innovative development on priority for cross-border regions with participation of innovative structures of neighbor countries (Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania).

Contact: ????????????

With this summary Julian Webb provides information gathered from his most recent trip to Asia to speak at the APEC International Forum on Economy Globalization and Incubation, held in Xi'an China and to undertake training for the 8th International Training Workshop in Shanghai, organized by the Shanghai International Business Incubator:

APEC International Forum on Economy Globalization and Incubation: With 80 odd participants from 19 countries (mostly Asian but including Russia and Mexico) the Forum was one of the best attended. It had an intimate feel and it was possible to meet everyone. The speakers and organization was excellent and of course the historic sites in Xi'an (Terracotta Warriors etc) were awesome. One of the most interesting presentations was regarding the formal China (Shanghai) and France (Montpellier) cooperation (see below). It was the 3rd APEC incubator Forum in China; another 3 incubator forums have been held in Taiwan and Korea.

International Incubator Training Workshop in Shanghai: An annual event and was attended by 22 participants from 12 countries, including Finland, USA, Nigeria, South Africa, France. The training introduces participants to Chinese culture and history as well as incubation in China and internationally. I think it cost USD\$600 inclusive of hotel and all meals. If you are interested in China and making links there it may be worthwhile. By the way Chinese incubators can be massive (for instance the Xi'an incubator has 60,000m² of space) and are perhaps best considered as an amalgam of technology incubators and technology parks'.

China France Cooperation: A very interesting project is underway linking the Shanghai International Business Incubator (a grouping of 6 massive incubators) and the Montpellier Agglomeration, the leading Tech Park and Incubator in France. Companies from each side are supported to enter each other's economy. So far a few companies from each country are participating, with companies at a graduation or post graduation stage. It is real and not the usual rhetoric and involves funds to help the companies. The web sites for the participating incubators are: www.montpellier-technopole.com and www.incubator.sh.cn

Asian Association of Business Incubators (AABI) awards: Two awards are made each year. One is the Dr Horiba Entrepreneur of the Year Award, won last year by Sanguine Electronics from the Shanghai International Business Incubator; a company started in 1998 by a university graduate, employing 67 people with offices in Shanghai, Tokyo, France and Canada and which participated in the co-operation with France. The award is sponsored by an aging very successful entrepreneur in Japan.. The other is the Incubator of the Year Award. Again it would be good to have an Australian entrant.

Information: Julian Webb, email: julian.webb@creedaprojects.com.au

An International Science Forum "Technologies Transfer: Innovations, Investments, Infrastructure" was held in Pitsunda (Abkhazia), 1-3 November 2005, organized by the Academy for Management and Market, Regional Agency for Innovation Development, Southern Centre for Technologies Transfer, INTECH, and the National Association for Business Incubation with support from the Chamber of Commerce of the Russian Federation.

Participants from Abkhazia, Ukraine, and 14 regions of the Russian Federation discussed the most crucial points of innovation development, such as infrastructure for innovation based entrepreneurship and small business development, venture capital and innovation management staff. The lack of experienced skilled staff for innovation management was identified as crucial bottleneck for start-up and SME development. Therefore education and training in the named field are very important. One of the main aspects of this problem is development and adaptation of methodological training materials and to attract the leading trainers and consultants in the area of social-strategic management. Particular attention should be paid to the remote forms of learning (e-learning). After intensive discussion the Forum adopted a resolution, calling for the creation of new inter-regional (and probably all-Russian) movement "For Territories innovation development".

The Forum also decided to hold the second international Forum "Technologies: Innovations, Investments, Infrastructure" in Abkhazia Republic, September 2006. INTECH will be included into Steering Committee of the next Forum.

Contact : Veniamin Kaganov, email: kaganov@smb-support.org

To Do List

For your SPICE Group Web Site Presentation:

- check your personal profile on www.spice-group.net
- update your association profile on www.spica-directory.net

Check the SPICE Calendar:

www.spice-group.net/events
to add the conferences and workshops you are planning

... more souvenir pictures from 2005: SPICE in...



... Tallinn, Estonia



... Bratislava, Slovakia



... Washington, USA



... Belchatow, Poland



... Yerevan, Armenia

SPICE Members & Friends in action...



Daegu, Korea: Julian Webb + Wang Rong,

Mercedes Barcelon, Rustam Lalkaka

Bong Jin Cho

Richard White + Heinz Fiedler

?????

RMP Jawahar

A. Balasubramaniam + Julian Webb + RMP Jawahar + Dinah Adkins

Heinz Fiedler + Hong Kim

Richard White + Anuar Safar

Yerevan, Armenia: Bagrat Yengibaryan + Heinz Fiedler + Krzysztof Zasiadly

Antal Szabo + Gunnar Due-Gunderson

Kiev, Ukraine: Vivek Chaudhry + Nikolay Paal

Steve Giddings + Todor Yalamov

Kairat Sugurbekov, Stefan Schandera, Tatyana Shpuling

Zamira Akbagysheva + Domnica Cotet

Yulia Kuznetsova + Mustafa Atilla + Isabella Stelmaszewska

Domnica Cotet + Zafar Mukhitdinov

Luba Maksymovych, Hanzade Savicevic Z. Akbagysheva, Nikolay Paal

Inna Gargauz

Nataliya Kozhevina, Marina Gill

I. Stelmaszewska, T. Shpuling H. Savicevic, L. Brovarska, M. Atilla

Nikolay Paal, Luba Maksymovych

Andriy Tarelin

Nataliya Paal

Washington, USA: Paulo Miranda, Peter Harman, Jose Eduardo Fiates

Michi Barcelon, Neeraj Neepali, Frederique Gerard, Steve Giddings

Julian Webb + new member

Baltimore, USA: Marie Lussier + Ed Hobbs

Rolf Friedrichsdorf

Steve Giddings, Larisa Brovarska, Dave Wrathall

Larisa Brovarska + Francisco Soares

Toni Wanklin

Julian Webb + Sean Achim

Odette Potter

Toshihiro Kose + Krzysztof Zasiadly

Peter Harman

Jeff Milanette

Peter Harman

Tallinn, Estonia: Barbara Harley, Raivo Tamkivi, Heinz Fiedler, Luis Sanz

Hanoi, Vietnam: Franz Dietrich + Chu Van Thang + Mai Hoang

Larisa Brovarska + Heinz Fiedler

Belchatow, Poland Krzysztof Zasiadly, Jacek Gulinski

And finally...

We are not sure that we could find pictures of all members (and unfortunately space is not sufficient to show pictures of all guests) attending SPICE meetings during the past year. There are more photos available in the SPICE picture galleries on our website www.spice.group.net/ - there pictures also are to be found in larger scale and higher resolution. In any case we hope the photos will help to remember the meetings with friends and provide incentive to attend the events to come. We wish you a new year with good health, much creativity for developing new concepts and success for all activities you start.

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska

