

Press Release

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Deloitte introduces its Innovation Centre to support start-ups

The Centre will focus on young technology companies involved in analytics, digital, cyber security and mobility solutions.

Brussel, May 7, 2014 – On Tuesday 29 April 2014, Deloitte Belgium launched the Deloitte Innovation Centre at De Hoorn in Leuven. The aim of the Deloitte Innovation Centre is to *stimulate* the Belgian economy by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. In doing so, it will focus on young technology companies involved in analytics, digital, cyber security and mobility solutions. The Centre intends to give young entrepreneurs the *boost* they need for their business, including access to Deloitte's extensive range of knowledge and its C-level mentoring that will help speed up the development of these new companies. For example, Deloitte staff will have the opportunity of sharing their knowledge with young talents, while at the same time keeping their finger on the pulse of new developments in the marketplace.

By making its extensive network available and facilitating the go-to-market process, Deloitte seeks to *promote* open innovation and continue to *build* on existing incubator and accelerator programmes by encouraging innovation in Belgium. Deloitte Belgium is the first link in Deloitte chain to launch such an initiative.

In Deloitte Belgium's opinion, fostering innovation in the form of supporting start-ups is a crucial factor for the survival of the Belgian economy. The Deloitte Federation of Belgian Enterprises says that getting ideas to market quickly is essential for achieving success and for maintaining a company's innovation process. With its access to local and global networks, Deloitte Belgium is uniquely positioned to help stimulate innovation in Belgium and help start-ups accelerate to the next level of maturity.

"The Deloitte Innovation Centre plans to take Belgian technology start-ups into the Champions League," said Guido Vandervorst, Managing Partner Innovation, Deloitte Belgium. "We are committed to open innovation and believe that a lot more can be achieved through innovation when we work together."



Deloitte Belgium has a long-standing history of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as the Deloitte Foundation, Deloitte University and Deloitte Fast50. The launch of the Innovation Centre confirms Deloitte's continued commitment to giving back to society in general and to the Belgian economy in particular.

The Deloitte Innovation Centre offers a range of different programmes, including various events for members, a Booster Academy and the Booster Programme. In the first package of the Centre's offering, members will be invited to attend various technology-based theme evenings, giving them the opportunity to speak with national and international tech specialists. The Academy will teach interesting topics related to enterprise and innovation, including how best to deal with intellectual property, aligning R&D and go-to-market, international expansion and so on. Finally, a number of selected start-ups will be invited to join the Booster Programme, where they will be assigned a mentor and be guided through a range of topics vital for their business (accounting, sales, funding, etc.).

Start-ups that are interested and believe they are eligible can register via innovation-centre.deloitte.be or send an e-mail to beinnovationcentre@deloitte.com.

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