

Press Release

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Deloitte launches Innovation Centre initiative in Wallonia

Brussels, 20 October, 2014 – On Monday 20 October, Deloitte Belgium launched the Deloitte Innovation Centre initiative in Wallonia at Cercle du Lac in Louvain-La-Neuve. The centre aims to stimulate the Belgian economy by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. It will focus on young technology companies involved in analytics, digital, cyber security and mobility solutions. In April 2014, the launch event of the Deloitte Innovation Centre initiative was held at De Hoorn in Leuven.

Deloitte Belgium has a long-standing history of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, both externally and internally, through initiatives such as the Deloitte Foundation, Deloitte University and Deloitte Fast50. The Deloitte Innovation Centre enables Deloitte to promote open innovation by opening up Deloitte's network and facilitating the go-to-market process of start-ups. Deloitte believes fostering innovation in the form of supporting start-ups is a crucial factor for the survival of the Belgian economy.

Guido Vandervorst, Managing Partner Innovation, Deloitte Belgium, "This is an exciting time to be an entrepreneur in Belgium and Deloitte is committed to doing what we can to support, promote and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. The launch of the Innovation Centre enables us to share our knowledge with young talents in Wallonia and give those entrepreneurs the boost they need to help speed up the development of their new companies."

Innovation Centre success

The Deloitte Innovation Centre offers a range of different programmes, including various events for members, a Booster Programme and the Booster Academy. As part of the Booster Programme, the selected companies are assigned a mentor and are guided through a range of topics vital for their business (accounting, sales, funding, etc.). The Academy teaches companies interesting topics related to enterprise and innovation, including how best to deal with intellectual property, aligning R&D and go-to-market, and international expansion.

During the first round of the selection phase, following the launch in Leuven, the Innovation Centre initiative received 48 applications in Flanders. Out of the candidates, 19 were invited to pitch their case in front of a jury. The Booster Programme launched on 6 October with 4 laureates: Nallian, Ontoforce, Sensolus, and Teamleader.

The following 15 companies were invited to join the Academy: Bolides; Coscale; D!nk; Pictawall; Connect 24-7; Digital AD; Moriset; ThinkerIT; Ilenti; DX Solutions; ThinkNexT; VideoStep; SourceRooms; Swan Insights; World of Waw.



Thus far, 10 new applications have been received during the second application phase in Flanders.

“There is a lot of young talent with great ideas and great potential in Belgium and we are excited to be working together with them in Flanders, and soon also in Wallonia,” said Guido Vandervorst, Managing Partner Innovation, Deloitte Belgium. “Innovation needs the space and the opportunity to grow and that is what the Innovation Centre initiative offers technology start-ups. At the same time, Deloitte keeps its finger on the pulse of new developments in the marketplace. We learn from each other and everyone benefits.”

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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