

## InduTec

### *A dynamic approach that boosts the know-how and creativity of the Brussels Industrial Engineering Institutes into business reality*

*InduTec was born from the wish of the 4 Brussels Industrial Engineering Schools to provide a common and complementary interface to business, bringing together their various competencies. InduTec has now moved into its phase of maturity and is successfully carrying out its mission: enhancing both the performances of the academic world and the economic growth.*

An association funded by the Brussels-Capital Region, *InduTec* was created on the initiative of the Brussels Industrial Engineering Institutes: *ECAM* (electro-mechanics, electricity, construction), *ISIB* (chemistry, electricity, mechanics, electronics, IT, thermics, energetics and nuclear), *Meurice Institute* (chemistry, biochemistry, environment), and *EHB-IWT* (electro-mechanics, electronics).



competence are Information and Telecommunications Technologies; Precision Techniques; Biochemistry and Environment; Agro-Food Technologies; and Entrepreneurship.

A member of *Brussels Technopol* – the associative network uniting the main scientific and socio-economic institutions of the Region – *InduTec* has developed a strong network of partnerships with regional, national and European bodies and professional federations, which enables to better answer the needs of the companies and to strengthen the performance of the economy.

Focusing on education, research and services, *InduTec* enables the Institutes to provide services to businesses, making available their scientific know-how, advising and technically supporting them with learning courses or applied research actions for the implementation of a solution appropriate to each industrial context... To give just a picture of its dynamism and of the reputation it has gained: *InduTec* is currently carrying out some 60 projects involving the Institutes and companies from Brussels, other Belgian Regions and European countries.

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### **A wide range of competencies at the service of businesses**

As the interface of the 4 industrial Institutes, *InduTec* has to manage and co-ordinate a very comprehensive range of competencies that are organised into 3 sectors of activities:

### **A dedicated expert team and a dynamic network of partners**

One of *InduTec's* main forces is the quality and efficiency of its team. In addition to its administrative and co-ordinating staff, *InduTec* has five permanent Project Managers whose poles of

- **Services to Economy** – Strongly involved in the socio-economic life. *InduTec* has developed its action in the light of the 5 following axes: services to business; detection of projects; promotion of research; continuous training; and economic valorisation of research.



**Mrs Anne-Marie van Oost**  
Managing Director of InduTec

- **Research** – Whether it is to find an industrial partner in a project carried out in an Institute's lab or to answer a research or an expertise request from a company, the support is dedicated both to the Institutes and businesses (contractual research, equipment sharing, development of new processes, implementation of new applications).

- **Training** – InduTec organises courses both to ensure the continuous training for teachers and researchers within the institutes and, conversely, to provide businesses with the know-how

and competence of these teachers and researchers through in-house training. Besides the technical and project oriented education, InduTec is focusing on actions proper to develop synergies between the academic and the economic world, notably through creativity and entrepreneurship programmes.

InduTec also organises thematic workshops, seminars and conferences, as well as on-site and virtual visits of laboratories. To further answer the needs of companies and Institutes, it also publishes a quarterly newsletter (*InduTec News*) and has developed a convivial and constantly up-dated web site, including useful links and dedicated Job Engineers Site. In addition, in order to promote the skills and know-how of the Brussels Industrial Engineering Institutes and to make its own activities and projects visible, InduTec participates to local and international fairs and meeting such as "STI" or the "Globe 2002" at Vancouver.

### Promoting creativity and entrepreneurship

"Brussels Industrial Institutes, as well as SMEs, show a great potential for innovation and industrial performance. Harnessing that potential is our objective." Underlines Mrs. Anne-Marie van Oost, Managing Director. "In this respect, InduTec has launched *Creativity sessions and Entrepreneurship courses*". A model of training for creativity and entrepreneurship, these actions merge the know-how of the institutes with the experience of active entrepreneurs. Numerous participants are giving of their time to teach and learn with InduTec, recognising the accuracy and unique opportunity such programmes represent for the Institutes and for Region.

- **The Creativity sessions** consist in gathering together, under the impulsion of a scientific manager, some groups of students, business collaborators and entrepreneurs, in order to explore the creativity process, from the detection to the elaboration of the idea up to the creation of a new and marketable product solution. These sessions also led to generate ideas for final thesis works.

- **The Entrepreneurship courses** are now compulsory modules of the cursus for each student in the Institutes. It begins with the simulation of the initiative spirit for the young scientists and introductory course for entrepreneurs to be (1st/2nd year), and led to a "mini entrepreneurship project" (3rd year) that, as for the creativity session, quite often generate ideas for final thesis works.

### An new approach to support the creation of start-up

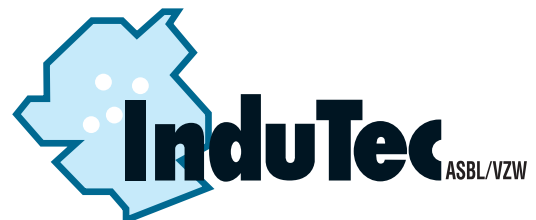
InduTec has already improved two approaches to support innovation: a reactive approach (finding a technological solution on a company request), and a proactive approach (valorising a new technology developed by the Industrial Institutes and offering it to companies).

In 2002, InduTec has launched a 3rd and new approach related on the creation of start-up.

"In order to ensure that the creativity of engineers do not fall on sterile ground and have a chance to be realised in economic terms, we had developed appropriate action (*creative sessions, entrepreneurship courses...*) to support the economic development of the fruits of research by stimulating the initiative spirit. Subsequently, after we had identified the gaps and needs, stimulating and ensuring the creation and viability of start-up companies through a new approach has appeared of the utmost importance." Explains Mrs. Anne-Marie van Oost.

The new "pre-incubation" phase that InduTec has created takes place within the pre-seed funding one, before the incubation. The 1st stage of pre-incubation, carried out within the Industrial Institutes, is based on the stimulation and support of the creativity process. It consists in generating, detecting and selecting ideas among the young engineers' works, in order to identify and support research projects that show economic development opportunities; this includes the intellectual property rights management. The 2nd stage of pre-incubation (9-15 months) is dedicated to the technologic development (prototype) and to the marketing development (pre-business plan and feasibility study).

Totally focussed on the innovation economy needs, InduTec aims to increase chances of success and growth by providing to active entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs-to-be a diverse educational offering, advice and guidance on critical problems, and access to the right contacts. Its holistic approach to identify what it really takes for young engineers and entrepreneurs to be successful sets it apart from the other structures. Preaches creativity, audacity and professionalism, InduTec incarnates creativity audacity and professionalism itself.



**Association of the four Industrial Engineering Schools of the Brussels-Capital Region**

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