



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN



**Proof of Concept funding in Austria  
experiences of TU Wien**

## RESEARCH & TRANSFER SUPPORT @ TU WIEN

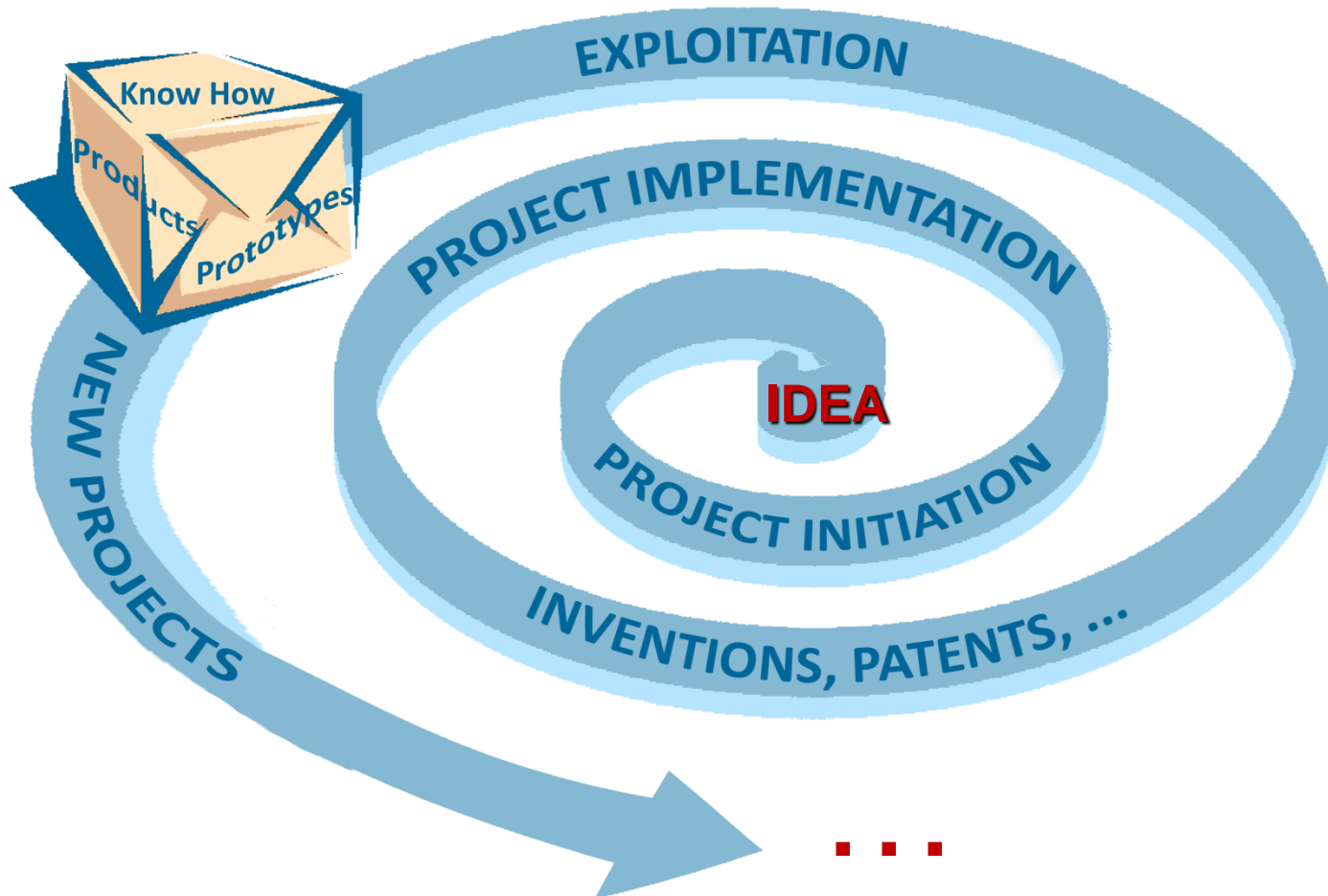
### Mission Statement

The aim of TU Wien is to transfer innovation into economy and society and to position TU Wien as an excellent research institution in a national and international context.

Research & Transfer Support is a service facility that supports researchers and research groups in research and exploitation activities.



## FROM AN IDEA TO A MARKETABLE PRODUCT





## PROJECT INITIATION

### Funding Support (national programmes)

- → TUW researchers
- Online material
- Newsletter
- personal consultancy



### Industry Relations „on the edge between science and industry“

- → Companies and researchers
- „Wirtschaftsimpulse durch Forschung“  
(information events, workshops)
- contact point for new industry partners
- direct procurement of business requests



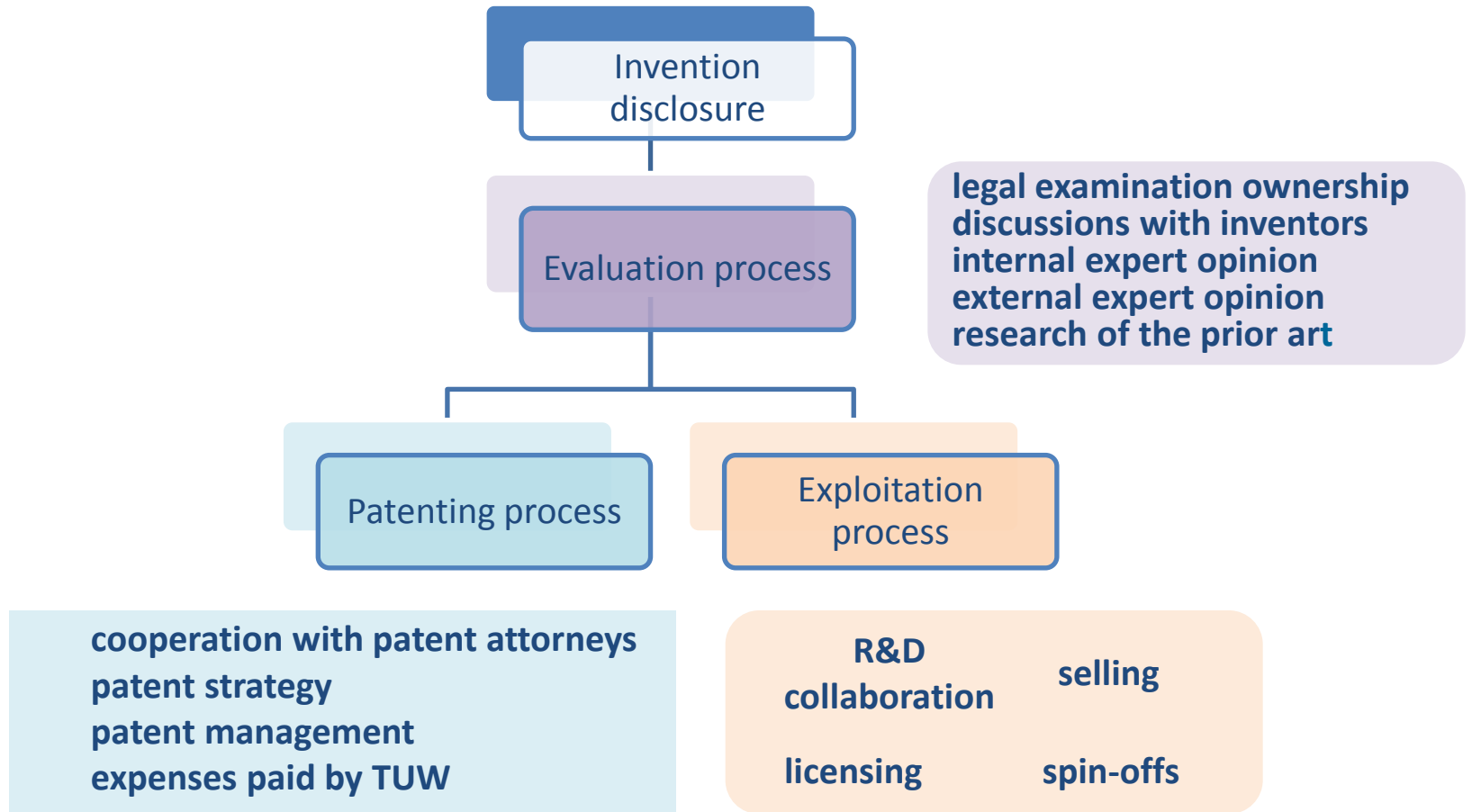
WIRTSCHAFTSKAMMER WIEN

Weiter kommen.

## Contracts and Legal Affairs

- consulting
- providing model contracts
- NDAs, MTAs, R&D - Agreements, Licence – Agreements, ...
- preparing, checking and negotiating, etc.

## Patent & License Management



## RESEARCH & TRANSFER SUPPORT @ TU WIEN

### Results p.a. on average

- 180 cooperation/funding requests  
(3/4 TUW\_internal; 1/4 industry/SME)
- 70 invention disclosures
- 350 R&D contracts





## RESEARCH & TRANSFER SUPPORT TEAM

### ■ Funding Support & Industry Relations



### ■ Contracts and Legal Affairs



### ■ Patent & License Management



## NEED FOR PoC FUNDING

### Inventions of TU WIEN

- **1/3 of the inventions out of cooperations with companies: applied research**
- **2/3 of the inventions out of own research: often basic research – long time to market and limited resources**

## PoC FUNDING

### Opportunities for Austrian Universities

Research funding is dedicated to basic research and usually does not include funds for PoC.

National funding of applied research like BRIDGE or RSA (Research Studios Austria) aims at SMEs or Start Ups

- Microfund of TU WIEN
- PRIZE prototype funding for universities

## **MICROFUND @ TU WIEN from 2007 on**

### **Encouraging young inventors:**

- Up to EUR 20.000.- per project
- For material costs only, not for employees
- Decision by a jury with members from different faculties of TU WIEN: integration and internal networking



## **PRIZE PROTOTYPE FUNDING 2009-2010, 2013 ongoing**

**Companies want to see and touch inventions**  
(rising risk aversity after the financial crisis)

- Funding by Ministry for Economy and Research  
1 Mio. EUR p/a, dedicated to universities only
- Decision by Ministry following the advice of a  
jury with members from industry

# PRIZE PROTOTYPE FUNDING

## Conditions

- Broad range of specialist fields, short proposals
- EUR 100.000.- per invention for material costs and additional employees, project period 18 month
- EUR 150.000.- for cooperation projects with other universities



## Powder snow out of the artificial cloud

**Michael Bacher, Meinhard Breiling, George Best, Sergej Sokratov**

Invention of TU WIEN and BOKU in 2009

Prototype funding 2009

Patents EP, US, CA, AT

Licence 2011-2013 to a big player

Founding of Start Up Neuschnee GmbH  
by the inventors in 2014

Licence to Neuschnee GmbH



## Support construction with increased dampening for cable-stayed bridges

Johann Kollegger, Philipp Egger, Herbert Pardatscher

Invention in 2008

Prototype funding 2010

Patents EP, CN, RU a.o.

Sale in 2012 to a company  
for Civil Engineering:  
Lumpsum + % cable costs  
of new built bridges





## Desulphurisation technology for biogas - saving costs

Michael Harasek, Aleksander Makaruk

Invention in 2013

Prototype funding 2013

Patent AT, application EP

Hannover Fair 2014:

Biogas treatment company  
interested in the technology

Decision on a first step 2016:  
the prototype is integrated  
in an upgrading plant in DE  
for field trial

In the case of success, a  
licence agreement will follow



## Production of high-performance polyimides by non-toxic hydro-thermal synthesis

Miriam Unterlass, Bettina Baumgartner

Polyimides can be used in a broad range of industries:  
automotive, aircraft, microelectronics, and especially as  
membranes in water treatment, in gas purification, in fuel  
cells and Li-ion-batteries

Invention in 2015

Prototype funding 2015

Patent application AT, PCT

Companies are interested from the start  
but they ask for PoC

The press release on PRIZE funding approval  
brings more interested companies.

In the light of the media echo, business  
models are checked: licence or Start up



# **RISING AWARENESS ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

## **First steps in HORIZON 2020**

- **ERC Proof of Concept Grant**
- **HORIZON2020 innovation action (incl. Prototypes)**
- **HORIZON2020 pilote „Fast track to innovation“**



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# Thank you for your attention!

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