

Economic Development Study Tour

17 June 2004

Chalmers Innovation

The study tour aims to attract people and organizations with an interest in how business incubators can contribute to the growth and expansion of technology-based firms.

Business Incubation has proved to be a powerful tool to stimulate and promote the development of new businesses. Incubators support the commercialisation of research results, which is a key factor for growth from a regional perspective.

According to the definition, business incubation is

“...a dynamic process of business development. Incubators provide hands-on management assistance, access to financing and orchestrated exposure to critical business or technical support services. They also offer entrepreneurial firms shared office services, access to equipment, flexible leases and expandable space.”

The promotion of business incubators is a prioritised goal in Västra Götaland. Besides the support to the different incubators, the region has helped establish a network of eight incubators, in order to support the learning and benchmarking of work processes between the organisations.

The Economic Development Study Tour will give insights into the work processes of a successful incubator – Chalmers Innovation, located in Göteborg. During the study tour, inspiring case studies will be presented - two companies' journey from initial idea to well functioning businesses. Furthermore, as a basis for discussion and interaction with the participants, a study of technology based business incubators around the North Sea will be presented.

Programme – Economic Development Group

11.00 Introduction and welcome - Olle Stenberg, CEO Chalmers Innovation

11.05 Presentation of the Chalmers Innovation Business Incubator

11.30 Presentation of case studies

- two companies present their businesses and their experiences from the business incubator

Micropos Medical

”Micropos Medical builds solutions that gives better cure and less side effects in cancer treatment.”

Tomas Gustafsson, CEO

Icomera

Icomera is the world's first and only proven provider of Wireless Onboard Internet to train operators with customers around Europe.”

Kristian Axelsson, founder

12.30 Lunch

- Together with participants from the Fishing Group Study Tour, we will have a lunch on the theme Maritime Gastronomy

13.30 Science Based Incubators around the North Sea

Nils Gabrielsson and Olov Domei, Inno Group Scandinavia, will present the ITTE project (Improving Technology Transfer from Science to Enterprise) commissioned by the European Commission/DG Enterprise.

They will give a picture of the Technology Transfer Institutions in the North Sea Area comparing framework, work processes and results with developments at an international level.

Furthermore, they will present some insights drawn from their experience as coordinator of the Gate2Growth Incubator Forum, a pan-European network of professional managers of technology incubators and incubators linked to research institutes and universities. The forum is supported by the European Commission as part of its Gate2Growth Initiative.

14.30 Concluding remarks and end of study tour

Topics for the Regional Development Debate Forum:

- Could a North Sea Incubator Network, help enhance the growth of technology-based firms in the respective regions?
- Drawn on the experiences of the Economic Development Study Tour, what would the focus and activities of such a network be?