

Session C: **"The role of co-location centres as hubs for entrepreneurship"**

SPEAKER PROFILE: Koen DEBACKERE - Managing director of K.U. Leuven R&D; Chairman of the Gemma Frisius Fonds, venture capital fund; co-founder and chairman of Leuven. Inc., the innovation network of Leuven high-tech entrepreneurs



Prof. Dr. Ir. Koenraad Debackere has been with K.U. Leuven since 1995. In 1993, 1995, 1997 & 2008 he won Best Research Paper Awards from the American Academy of Management and the Decision Sciences Institute in the area of technology and innovation management. In 2006, he won the 3-yearly VBO-prize for scientific excellence. In 2007, he was appointed Honorary Professor at the Science Policy Research Unit, U. Sussex. In 2009, he obtained the 5-yearly Research Publication Award from the International Association for Management of Technology. Since 1999, he is actively engaged in technology transfer activities as managing director of K.U. Leuven Research & Development and Chairman of the Gemma Frisius Fonds (the venture fund) of the K.U.Leuven.

He is co-founder and chairman of Leuven.Inc, the innovation network of Leuven high-tech entrepreneurs. He is a board member of IWT-Vlaanderen, the Flemish government agency that supports innovation in Flemish industry. Since 2005, he is the general manager of K.U.Leuven.

COMPANY PROFILE: Leuven Inc.



Your link to high-tech entrepreneurship

Leuven.Inc wants to build a permanent bridge between the enterprising knowledge creators and the technology entrepreneurs, that complement such knowledge, and to create out of this supplementary relationship a healthy and dynamic, future-oriented, expanding prosperity in the region of Leuven.

To reach this goal, the network wants to be a platform of communication that brings together local knowledge creators. To do this Leuven.Inc will arrange special projects and events, for members as well as for a broad audience, corresponding to all the aspects of its objective.

At the same time, Leuven.Inc wants to actively participate in the international network of the knowledge community, aiming to stress the advantages of the area of Leuven as an essential junction of a global knowledge and network economy.

International Network Platform

To extend the range of our network, alliances with national and foreign partners are established. Members have access to a wide range of information and are supported by a solid platform of up-to-date knowledge and expertise. Examples include:

- On the 1st of January 2003, Leuven.Inc started an Innovation Stimulation Project with support of IWT. This project brings the opportunity to enlarge the Leuven.Inc (net)working area and target audience.
- Through an international cooperation with Tampere region, an additional high tech networking link is available to our members.