

Towards excellence in material research and technology transfer

Two months before the final race

Project:

Horizon 2020 Teaming project “**The Excellence Centre of Advanced Material Research and Technology Transfer — CAMART²**”

Goal:

To develop CAMART² as a Baltic sea region material science Centre of Excellence with high innovation and technology transfer capacity

Specialization:

- Thin films and coating technologies
- Functional materials for electronics and photonics
- Nanotechnology, nano-composites and ceramics
- Computational material science by atomic scale modelling of technologically important materials and devices

Partners:

- [Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia](http://www.issp.lv)
- [Royal Institute of Technology \(KTH\)](http://www.kth.se)
- [Acreo Swedish ICT](http://www.acreo.se)

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On December 11, 2013 the EU Horizon 2020 Teaming call was opened to level a pit between Member States by rising the research excellence of low performing countries and strengthen the competitiveness of Europe in the global scale.

169 proposals for the Phase 1 were submitted, however only 31 were selected to develop their Business Plans. Between them with a score 14,5 (from 15) was the only project from Latvia submitted by the Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia (ISSP UL) in cooperation with Swedish colleagues from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and Acreo Swedish ICT.

During 12 months of the Phase 1 a Business Plan for the future Centre of Excellence CAMART² must be elaborated demonstrating the long-term science and innovation development strategy. Business plan should be based on a SWOT analysis of ISSP UL and it must be fortified with a forceful financial commitment document from government allocating at least equivalent funding from national, ESIF or any others resources for planned infrastructure development.

After international expert evaluation of the submitted Business Plans elaborated during the Phase 1, only some (~9) project proposals with the highest ranking will receive funding for the Phase 2. Horizon 2020 financial support up to 15 MEUR (administrative costs, salaries etc.) will be granted for the implementation of the Business Plan. Only two months are left until the end of the Phase 1 — May 31, 2016, and then everybody must be ready for the final race to reach Phase 2.

Progress of the CAMART²

On June 4, 2015 European Commission and Latvian government representatives participated in the CAMART² project launching event.

A number of meetings with governmental bodies, higher educational representatives, students and entrepreneurs took place explaining the CAMART² objectives, goals and future benefits for them. Special Strategic board was formed that is lead by Dr. Agrita Kiopa Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science and includes representatives from Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finances, State Education Development Agency and University of Latvia.

Several workshops and brainstorming events with Latvian, Lithuanian and Swedish entrepreneurs were organized to get a clear message about their needs and demands regarding research input in their business development (<http://camart2.eu/Dissemination.html>).

A solid base for creation of the Business Plan was built according to the SWOT analysis of the ISSP UL, which was objectively and fairly performed with the help of highly qualified and experienced Swedish colleagues. KTH Electrum laboratory and Acreo Swedish ICT were visited to learn their experience and take the best practices to incorporate all benefits in the Roadmap of development of the ISSP UL.

Cooperation agreements between the University of Latvia and Riga Technical university regarding mutual engagement in a scientific projects and educational activities were signed. It opened a way to widen the education possibilities in Latvia in the near future and encourage talented students to prolong their studies and choose a scientist carriers.

For now just a glimpse of time is left to finalize all milestones and actions showing a clear way towards the excellence in material research and technology transfer in ISSP UL and Latvia.

More about activities in www.camart2.eu

Phase 1 activities:

- Assessment of existing situation
- Elaboration of Roadmaps
- Development of Business Plan

Proposed Phase 2 activities:

- Attract, train and increase necessary human resources
- Develop technical expertise
- Upgrade infrastructure
- Perform marketing activities
- Develop the innovation system
- Create Technology Transfer Centres
- Create spin-off companies
- Implement quality standards

