

# HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



## Development milestones celebrated

Prior to having taken occupation of its new campus early in 2005, the Hub introduced a number of brokers to its site and celebrated the roof-wetting of its two core buildings, the Innovation Centre and the Enterprise Building as well as the official opening of The Innovation Hub Bridge across the N1 highway.

## Start-up graduates retain links with the Hub

Two of the start-up companies that have graduated from the **maxum** Business Incubator during the past year, the Naledi3d Factory and the Expertron Group, have elected to take up space as Associate companies at the Hub, thereby remaining part of the greater Hub community.

## Innovative bandwidth management device launched

Associate Hub tenant company, the Expertron Group, launched eXstreamLITE, a networking device that optimises Internet traffic. This is the latest innovation in their eXstream suite of products that have been designed, developed and distributed while part of the Hub's incubation programme.

## Virtual reality training programme developed

The Naledi3d Factory delivered its fourth community development project in Africa since joining the Hub's incubation programme with the development of virtual reality training material for beekeepers in Zimbabwe. The effectiveness of the training model has also been evaluated for use at several multipurpose centres in that country.

## Manager of maxum first Chair of SABTIA

Jill Sawers, Manager of the **maxum** Business Incubator at the Hub, is a founder member, and was elected as the first Chair of the South African Business and Technology Incubation Association (SABTIA), which was launched in March 2004. SABTIA aims to provide a platform for the sharing of local best practice amongst incubation professionals and an entry point into the South African incubation industry, and to form a body to represent the incubation industry in South Africa.

## Hub CEO elected to IASP International Board

Dr Neville Comins was elected to the International Board of the International Association of Science Parks (IASP). The Innovation Hub joined the IASP as its first full member in Africa in 2001, giving it access to peer organisations world-wide.

## Incubation spurs local innovations

A number of innovations have seen the light of day from start-ups participating in the Hub's incubation programme. These have included Defiance Technology's 'hotspot' management software that regulates and protects hotspot usage and is cost-effective compared to international offerings; as well as a Swiss-commissioned automated data pack for a rotary bottle filler with the capacity to fill up to 12 000 one litre bottles per hour, 24 hours a day, developed by Automated Product Development.

## Technology innovation at forefront of collaboration

The Tshwane University of Technology and the Hub signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in stimulating innovation through student development, research and innovation projects, technological innovation, business incubation and technology transfer.



### Sappi's new Technology Centre launched

Sappi Limited took occupation of its newly launched Technology Centre, and the first anchor tenant at the Hub's new precinct. The Centre will provide services locally and internationally in paper pulping and bleaching and testing, among others.

### Conference Venue and on-site restaurant launched

The Conference Venue at the Hub was launched with state-of-the-art facilities, cutting edge ICT, popular 'hot' offices and a Knowledge Centre run by the University of Pretoria. In addition, business has been brisk at Europa@Hub, the franchised coffee shop and catering facility located in the Innovation Centre.

### Turning Tshwane into a smart city

The Youth Development Trust's SmartCity community contact programme - a skills development initiative to create jobs for unemployed tertiary education graduates - was located at the Hub. The aim is to establish a business that will provide customised services to the City of Tshwane. Other partners include USAID, the Embassy of Finland, the Tshwane Metropolitan Council and Khanyisa Real Systems.

### Hub environment stimulates new ideas

Innovation has continued unabated amongst tenants in the Hub's Enterprise Building. Ultimate Sports Nutrition (USN) added a non-carbonated slimming drink, LeanR, and a high-performance energy drink, EnerG, to their list of more than 50 products.

Agile Works developed a simulation tool with Open Source software for Eskom and the Department of Minerals and Energy to assist with the electrification planning for marginalised rural areas.

### New partners join the Hub's CoachLab™ programme

The success of the Hub's CoachLab™ concept has led to the participation of Vodacom, Cisco Systems and the Tshwane University of Technology as new partners and co-sponsors with existing partners, Epi-Use and the University of Pretoria, in the ITCoachLab.

### Significant growth of the INNOV8 community

The Hub's INNOV8 community initiative has grown to more than 3 000 members. Regular business networking has taken place through Pub@Hub, POWER Breakfast and Forum events. Knowledge sharing has taken place through the SevN Days business seminar series and the Hub's Know-How Network, which is supported by a number of specialist Knowledge Partners.

### Jobs created through infrastructure and pilot activities

The establishment of the Hub has resulted in the creation of 71 permanent sustainable jobs and 1 504 short-term construction-related jobs, while its incubation pilot activities leading up to the move of the **maxum** Business Incubator to the Hub's new precinct have generated work for 138 people.

### The Hub 'on show' attracts significant business interest

The Hub's participation during 2004 in the Futurex, SAITEX and Tshwane Business Week exhibitions to explain the Science Park concept to potential tenants and investors generated significant interest and gave rise to an accelerated tenant uptake at its new premises during the last quarter of the financial year under review.