

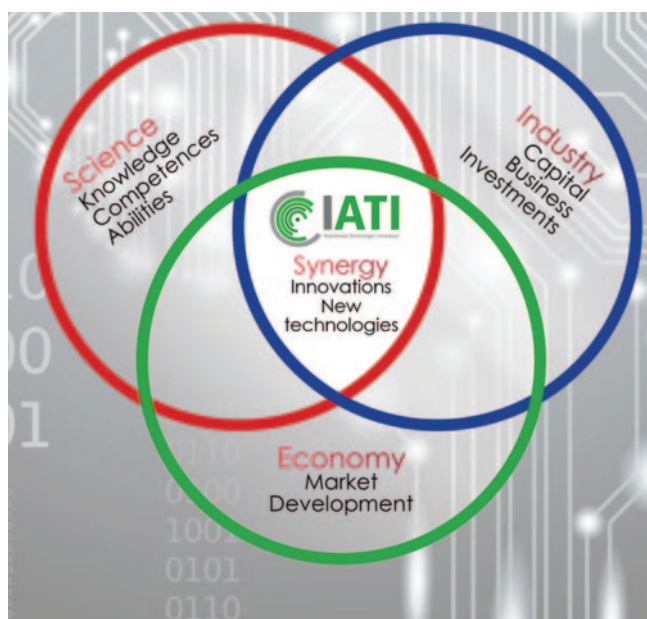
OPENING THE OPEN INNOVATIONS

Science and business will always be in need of a platform of co-operation. The Institute of Highway Technology and Innovation Consortium aims to provide that platform

IN the broad and dispersed scientific, research and business environment in Poland, Wrocław University of Technology and AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow are promoting a new formula of co-operation between business and the scientific environment. In July 2014, the Institute of Highway Technology and Innovation (IATI) Consortium was established. The consortium provides a modern platform for co-operation between science and business. Its core is made up of renowned and innovative technical universities, research institutes, and leading companies in strategic sectors of the Polish economy (e.g. the power, petrochemical, raw materials processing, and IT sectors). A list of consortium partners is available at www.iati.pl.

The IATI and its partners not only have longstanding experience in carrying out scientific, research, and implementation projects but also have modern laboratories and specialist centres. On top of this, they employ teams of distinguished specialists with significant academic and research achievements. They have also carried out a broad portfolio of research and implementation projects financed by EU funds and companies' own funds.

Wrocław University of Technology and AGH University of Science and Technology – the two most prominent technical universities in Poland – are the leaders of the consortium. For many years, they have consistently implemented the policy of knowledge and technology transfer to the economy.



Wrocław University of Technology

During the last five years, Wrocław University of Technology has submitted over 600 patent applications, becoming the undisputed leader in this area in Poland. In the years 2007-13, the university also completed a number of R&D projects. The total value of the 110 scientific and research projects initiated in 2013 alone exceeded €40m.

Wrocław University of Technology has completed an impressive complex of research facilities. In the modern Technopolis facility, research in the fields of control engineering, robotics, computer science, electronics, and telecommunications is performed. Here, research teams have access to world class equipment and laboratories (including an anechoic chamber or the so-called 'clean room'). In the Geocentrum facility, research focuses on technologies and techniques in sectors related to Earth sciences: the raw materials, construction, civil engineering, and environmental engineering sectors.

The university is constantly improving its operations by, for example, implementing process management aiming at increasing the effectiveness of co-operation with the business sector, and allowing its teams to view the joint performance of various projects with business partners from a different angle.

Co-operation with industry is located in the Centre of Cooperation between Science and Industry. The centre's staff are experienced and competent in organising and co-ordinating the process of co-operation between university units and entities of the economy. The centre runs an integrated database containing information on the university's scientific potential, modern technologies, and available research equipment.

AGH University of Science and Technology

This is a modern technical university that actively participates in the development of a knowledge society and the application of modern technologies to stimulate development and economic growth.

The university is especially famous for its achievements in innovative IT solutions. Its strongest areas include physics, power engineering, seeking and processing of mineral materials, mechatronics, control engineering and robotics. Intensive research is being carried out on new materials and biomedical engineering, as well.

The university's strong position is manifested in its co-operation with many sectors of the industry as well as participation in national and international scientific and industrial consortia, such as the Polish Higher Education-Business Forum, the InnoEnergy

KIC (the university co-ordinates the activity of the Polish CC Poland Plus node), and the Raw Materials KIC.

The development of new fields of research would not be possible without the university's excellent infrastructure, which includes almost 680 modern laboratories, as well as many recent projects, such as the Academic Centre for Materials and Nanotechnology, IT Centre, or Ceramics Centre. The university is also finalising the construction of the Centre of Energy – the greatest project in its history. The centre will also be the largest specialist laboratory in Poland. In 2014, the university signed a contract for the delivery of Prometheus – the largest supercomputer in the history of the country. It will be four times stronger than the famous Zeus – so far the best supercomputer in east-central Europe.

Co-operation

The main aim of the IATI Consortium is to integrate the numerous material, financial, and human resources of Polish research organisations with the resources and needs of companies, in order to create, in an ordered and economical way, innovations, as well as technical and technological solutions, which may be useful for national, European and global economies.

The co-operation area of IATI partners encompasses 13 thematic fields. Most of them correspond to research areas defined in the Technological Foresight of the Industry – InSight2030 project. These are: industrial biotechnologies, nano-processes and nano-products, advanced manufacturing systems and materials, ICT, microelectronics, photonics, energy, raw materials, a healthy society, the green economy, safety, transport, and the environment.

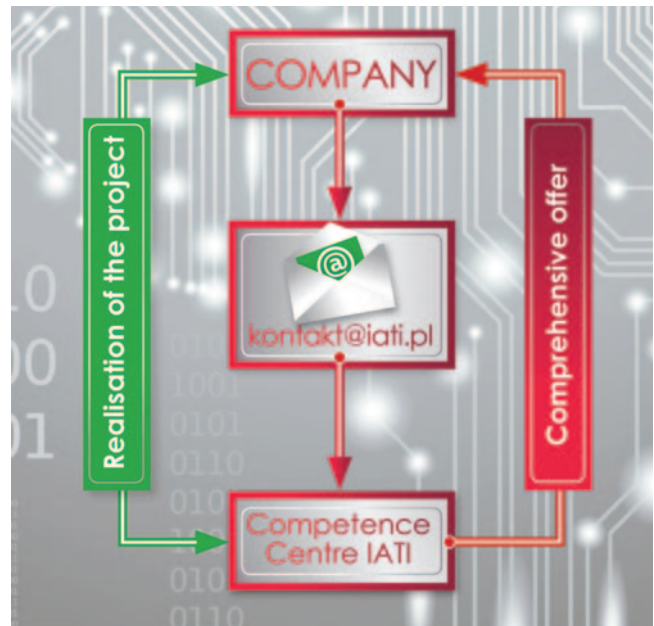
Within the thematic areas we are keeping an up-to-date record of the potential of consortium partners. The database containing information on our competences is growing, and the so-called 'competence centres' have been established. IATI partners proposed establishing 51 competence centres (EoY 2014). Two of them – 'Water and environment' and 'Environment-friendly water transport technologies' – have already started functioning.

A competence centre is the main hub of on-going co-operation, to which the resources (such as research equipment) and research teams have been assigned. Therefore, when contacting the IATI (kontakt@iati.pl), an entrepreneur or institution seeking a particular technical or technological solution will obtain ordered information on the possibility of solving a problem in an appropriate competence centre in order to analyse the problem and potential co-operation.

If the reported problem could be solved jointly, consortium partners could present a comprehensive offer. Potential clients decide the rules of co-operation themselves, apply to a particular project for funding and create consortia for carrying out a particular task or project.

Business benefits for entrepreneurs co-operating with the IATI:

- Obtaining a comprehensive R&D offer at a single source;
- Co-operation with competent and reliable partners;
- Savings on seeking contractors to solve particular problems;



- Gaining competitive advantage and a 'priority bonus' thanks to quick and cross-sectional access to the best solutions offered by Polish science; and
- Effective factual and administrative support in applying for funding.

Benefits for entities interested in joining the IATI as a partner:

- Establishing contacts and gaining access to a large database of institutions and companies with key competences in strategic research areas;
- New opportunities for carrying out research projects and chances to benefit from funds for applied research;
- Development of the entity's own competences, as well as competences of its staff, acquiring new skills and knowhow in the R&D area; and
- Tangible effects of co-operation with the leading science and research centres in Poland and abroad, based on rational, fair and partnership-like rules.

The IATI Consortium guarantees the interested companies and external institutions an appropriate level of confidentiality.

We invite companies, research institutes, and other organisations to contact us and to establish co-operation: kontakt@iati.pl.



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