

# **Building Bridges: sharing best practices on commercialization of technology**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer Management (CZIIIT),  
Warsaw University of Technology, ul. Rektorska 4 (Warsaw)**

Draft Program

**09:30-10:00 Registration**

**10:00-10:30 Opening Remarks**

- H.E. Stephen de Boer, Ambassador of Canada to Poland
- John Law, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States in Poland
- Chantal Moser, Head of Economic Affairs, Embassy of Switzerland in Poland
- Professor Maciej Chorowski, Director, National Centre for Research and Development (TBC)
- Minister Piotr Dardziński, Under-Secretary of State for Science and Higher Education (TBC)
- Rector of Politechnika Warszawska

**10:30-11:45 Panel 1 - Technology Transfer: R&I to market**

Technology transfer has become a major issue for research institutions: how to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users who can then further develop and exploit the technology into new products, processes, applications, materials or services. It involves a wide range of issues such as research cooperation with industry, inventions, patent applications and licensing, as well as setting up spin-off companies.

Moderator: to be confirmed

Panellists:

- Tibor Turi, Manager, Ontario Regional Office | [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#)
- Gabriele Dobenecker, Head Marketing, Knowledge & Technology Transfer, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology [Empa](#)
- Jay Schrankler, Executive Director, [Office for Technology Commercialization](#), University of Minnesota

**11:45-13:00 Panel 2 – Path to innovation: linkages between academia and industry**

Cooperation between academia and the private sector can take various forms, including conducting fundamental research that flows into the development of new products and processes of a commercial partner. It also implies knowledge transfer from the research institution to a company. In addition, closer cooperation with business helps universities to develop curricula that are relevant and meet the needs of students and society. Establishing international cooperation can contribute to building on already existing research. This contributes to provide graduates with the right skills and mind-sets for the global labour market.

Moderator: [Daria Tataj](#), Founder and CEO, [Tataj Innovation](#)

Panellists:

- George Jackowski, Chief Scientific Officer, [Pivotal Therapeutics](#)
- Jacques Hefti, Senior Lecturer of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, [ZHAW School of Management and Law](#)
- AF “Mehdi” Anwar, [Jefferson Science Fellow](#) at the U.S. Department of State
- Iwona Cymerman, Grantee and Laureate of the [Foundation for Polish Sciences](#)

**13:00-14:00    Networking lunch**

**14:00-15:15    Panel 3: Intellectual property rights: your insurance policy**

Thinking of technology commercialisation as the process of bringing new products and services to the market, intellectual property rights play a key role as they protect the - often large and highly risky - investments of innovative and creative companies thereby providing incentives to undertake such investments in the first place. An effective use of the intellectual property rights tools is an important contribution to the successful technology transfer from science to business.

Moderator: [Tomasz Snażyk](#), Managing Partner, SGP Legal

Panellists:

- [Justyna Regan](#), Attorney and Counselor at Law, [Miller Canfield](#)
- Hans-Ulrich Stamm, Economist, [Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property](#)
- [Jean Bonilla](#), U.S. Department of State
- [Alicja Adamczak](#), President of the Polish Patent Office

**15:15-16:30    Panel 4: The role of Venture Capital in a competitive innovation ecosystem**

Studies show that regardless of government regulations and general conditions, only a small number of original product ideas actually make it to market and even fewer are effective and successful. There exist various reasons for this, including the so-called “funding gap” where not enough funding is available to get existing products ready for the market. This affects typically young, innovative and technology-oriented start-up companies, which do not have significant revenues or collaterals. Venture capital can contribute to filling this gap.

Moderator:     Michal Dzoga, Director of Public Policy for Europe at Intel Corporation & Chair of the Board of the [Coalition for Polish Innovation](#)

Panellists:

- Marlena Labieniec, Strategy and Operations, [NAVA Ventures](#)
- Jean-Pierre Vuilleumier, Managing Director, [CTI Invest](#)
- Louis Foreman, [Edison Nation](#)
- Marek Borzestowski, [GIZA Polish Ventures](#)

**16:30-16:45    Closing remarks**

**17:00-19:00    Networking / B2B Session**