

## Vittal Innovation City & Science Parks of Wallonia Join Hands to Accelerate R&D, Training and Skill Development for Growth of Industries.

**November 25, 2013, New Delhi**

Vittal Innovation City (VIC) announced today that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Science Parks of Wallonia (SPoW)**, Belgium.

SPoW, the network of the science and technology parks of Wallonia, and Vittal Innovation City share mutual interest in the development of innovative ecosystems, which are based on public and private partnerships. VIC and SPoW have signed an MoU and cooperate in the areas of mutual interest. The MoU was signed by Mr. N. Vittal, Chairman, Vittal Innovation City and Dominique Demonté, Vice President, SPoW on 25 November, 2103. This MOU was signed in the presence of Her Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, Didier REYNDERS, *Federal Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs – Belgium* and Kris PEETERS, *Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy*.

Both organizations plan to participate in creation of a framework and setting up of a corridor for cooperative projects between India and Wallonia. These projects will be focused in the fields of mutual interest in areas of Life Sciences, CleanTech, and Aeronautics.. There is also deep interest in the Development of Training, Skill Development and R&D in these selected areas as well.

The corridor will focus on enabling cooperation and engagement between the Small and Medium Enterprises between both the countries, set up centres of excellence in areas of mutual interest, collaboration and development in the areas of skills, training, education and research. Experiences and knowledge will be shared to build a understanding of the needs of each side that will help develop common models of engagement.



Mr. N. Vittal - Chairman, Vittal Innovation City  
at the signing ceremony

N. Vittal, Chairman – Vittal Innovation City, said, "Our collaboration with SPoW in the field of Training, Skill Development and R&D will help the industries, especially SME's to sustain and afford better technology. It will improve the industrial ecosystem and promote local manufacturing. We will be developing a Center of Excellence which will work towards the growth and development of industrial infrastructure. This will lead to better trade between both the countries."

"Belgium is a gateway to Europe and we are confident that this partnership, will define 21st century partnerships of Science Parks," added Pankaj Saran, Director - VIC.

Dr. Dominique Demonté, Vice-President - SPoW, commented "Our first contacts make me optimistic, and I think it is the first step of a fruitful collaboration between our two organizations".

## About Science Parks of Wallonia

Created in 2002, SPoW is a network of 7 science and technology parks:

- Aérople - Charleroi
- Créalys - Gembloux
- Initialis - Mons
- Liège Science Park
- Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park
- Novalis - Marche
- Qualitis - Enghien

These parks are currently home to more than 500 companies - including 73 spin-offs – employing more than 13,000 people. Spread over 693 ha (6.93 sq. km), the science parks offer potentiality for accommodation (renting of labs or offices) and free spaces for Belgian or foreign investors. The parks offer a wide range of services allowing optimum development of innovative companies. For instance, the potential for scientific or technological collaborations with universities and research centres is a crucial aspect of a company's research and development strategy.

Via SPoW, the seven science parks in Wallonia are working closely together to promote their "know-how" in the hosting of high-tech companies. They also support the process of innovation and economic development of the Walloon region. Finally, SPoW strives to foster relationships between its tenants and professors and researchers at the Universities by organizing formal and informal meetings.

All the science parks in Wallonia offer a strategic location for innovative companies. The main features being:

- exceptional sites, ideal life and work spaces
- high tech infrastructure and equipment
- high level scientific resources
- a personalized and varied real estate offer

## About Vittal Innovation City (VIC)

Vittal Innovation City was conceived with the vision "To create Innovation Driven Green Cities (IDGCTM); with the vision to transform economies, and act as a magnet to attract global talent." VIC is focused on driving innovation and manufacturing in the areas of Electronics, IT, Life Sciences, Aerospace, Defense and Telecommunications. A strong focus on corporate social responsibility, which include skill development opportunities for the local community. VIC is an initiative by eminent industry professionals and academicians. The Chairman of VIC, N. Vittal, is a former Secretary at the Ministries of Telecommunications and Information Technology, and is one of the architects of the reforms in those sectors, which led to India's emergence as a competitive player in the new global economy. He was recently awarded the Padma Bhushan for his exceptional contribution to India's development in the IT & Telecom sector. Ajai Chowdhry, a founder of HCL and Former Chairman of HCL Infosystems, is the mentor for the project.

VIC's focus would be to:

- Provide world-class infrastructure for setting up research and development, special processes, "Centre of Excellence" in selected technology areas, incubation centre and a Technology Transfer Office;
- Create collaborative relationships between universities and colleges from all around the world to provide world-class education in India.
- Provide world class training programs leading to direct absorption of trained manpower into the domestic industry; by developing skills in engineering programs, Quality

Management Systems, Program Management, Manufacturing, Supply Chain Management, Leadership and special processes.

- Provide a single window for setting up centres and manufacturing facilities.
- Facilitation of an incubation fund.

**Media contact**

Romi Chugh, Head - Marketing, Vittal Innovation City  
+91 96633 71703, email id - [romi@vitalinnovationcity.com](mailto:romi@vitalinnovationcity.com)