

Head of Start-Up Incubator Ecosystem on Solvay Science & Technology Campus in Brussels Region (Belgian scope)



Main Mission :

As an historic actor of open innovation, Solvay is supporting the creation of a startup incubator open to third parties, located near Solvay HeadQuarters, on the Science & Technology Campus (Neder-over-Heembeek, Brussels).

To achieve this ambition, we are currently looking for a passionate entrepreneur ready to become the Head of the Incubator Ecosystem, accountable for leading its structuration, set up and development.

Scope covers the 3 regions within Belgium (with possible extension to Benelux) in the sectors of Chemistry, Advanced Materials and Industry 4.0.

Reporting to a board to be set up, she/he will :

- Confirm the business plan and finalize structuration of the project.
- Execute the plan to practically establish the structure including finalizing financing, business model, governance, services offering, facilities, ecosystem building.
- Lead the structure once established and develop the incubator to critical mass (10-15 startups - circa 100 FTEs hosted) within an agreed timeline while ensuring alignment with main stakeholders.

Main goals :

- Within 3-6 months after joining, you will finalize and confirm the business plan for the structure.
- You will lead the project and manage internal and external relationships (Interaction with belgian innovation funding institutions, universities , ...) and their respective Technology Transfer Office and Incubators. This includes, among other responsibilities, asserting the specific identity of the Incubator versus other structures, finalization of Services Offering, financing and funding of the hosting infrastructure, Legal structuration and Governance proposal.
- Supervise construction and practical set up of Incubator (accesses, contract services offered (and by whom) and not offered)
- Lead the Incubator once set up
 - Become the CEO of the structure with a staff of 2-4 employees
 - Develop the ecosystem (founding partners, business school, funding network, communication, events...) and ensure selection of candidate startups
 - Be the external representative, ensure external visibility for the Incubator and for startups hosted, including on-site events to facilitate contacts
 - Responsible for the quality of the services offered

Profile :

- Master level is required. PhD in hard sciences and/or MBA is a plus.
- Demonstrated Entrepreneurial mindset
- Intimate knowledge of local Belgian innovation ecosystem is a must.
- 10-15 years previous work experience in the innovation sector either as an entrepreneur, investor, Innovation or Business development manager
- Technology transfer, intellectual property management, licensing
- Public Innovation funding

- Ability to work in complex environments and interact with different and multiple stakeholders
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills
- Fluency in Flemish, French and English is required

We offer :

- Temporary contract of 6 months with possibility of extension in case of need. Consultancy contracts are also welcome.
- After the end of temporary contract, the selected candidate shall pursue the challenge, developing a stand alone entrepreneurial incubator ecosystem with first revenues and with the support of Solvay until a complete financial autonomy.
- Great possibilities of personal and professional growth