

DOING BUSINESS IN THE EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE
The newsletter of the Chambers of Commerce of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Q3, 2003

Issue 3

October, 2003

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This project has been made possible thanks to the European Interreg III program for the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, the Région Wallonne (B), the Provincie Limburg (B) and the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen (D).



CHAMBER NEWS

BEST ECO MEETING 2003

[COM: Maastricht, October 13]

The Chambers of Commerce in the Southern Netherlands are taking part at the BEST ECO MEETING this year. This international partnership forum is organized for the third time by the Walloon association of Euro Info Centers and the Walloon Export promotion association, AWEX.

The objective of the forum is to provide a meeting place for industrial operations and environmental professionals and also for environmental professional themselves. This is organized on the basis of individual appointments. Businesses that are active in the environmental sector have the opportunity of promoting their information and getting to know about the latest available environmental technologies on the international market (Belgium, France, Poland, Italy, Canada and the Netherlands).

This meeting will be held in Liège from November 12 through 14, at the same time as the BEST 2003 fair – the 6th European fair for the environment, energy and clean technologies. (www.bestenvironment.be)

What does the BEST ECO MEETING offer you?

- A 2- day conference, with the option of personal appointments;
- a catalogue with all participant profiles;
- around 200 participants from 10 different countries;
- a workshop on European environmental technology transfer; and,
- free access to the BEST 2003 fair.

Further information is to be found at the link.

<http://www.bem2003.be/>

DOING BUSINESS IN THE USA

[COM: Aachen, October 13]

The Meuse-Rhine Chambers of Commerce are organizing a meeting called 'Doing Business in the USA'. It will provide support for entrepreneurs who intend to extend or start business with US partners. The topics will include socio-economic development in the US, legal matters and US business behavior. Finally, three companies will talk about their experience in the US market. After the seminar, participants will lunch together for a further exchange of ideas. The meeting will be held at the Dorint Quellenhof Hotel in Aachen. The fee for participation is EUR 75. - which also covers lunch. For further information please contact your local chamber.

<http://www.aachen.ihk.de>

EAST BELGIAN CHAMBER LINKS

[COM: Eupen, September 1]

Since the East Belgian Chamber's website has included an introduction to East Belgian business community with links on its website in April, the number of companies requesting a link has doubled. While, after one month 25% of those visiting the site wanted to investigate the company databank, at the end of August this percentage had risen to 75% and the requests from the surrounding Euroregion also rose in the same period by 25 to 30% and the number of requests has more than doubled since April.

<http://www.ihk-eupen.be>

EUREGIONALE 2008 UPDATE

[COM: Aachen, August 27]

Euregionale 2008 refers to a series of projects in Aachen and Meuse-Rhine, which can expect regional grant funding from the State Government of North Rhine Westphalia in 2008. Currently, there are 160 proposed projects and the focus of activity is on nine project partners including the City of Aachen, Parkstad Limburg, Belgium's German-speaking community and the districts of Düren, Heinsberg and Euskirchen, the Aachen Chamber of Commerce and the ZAR Communal Association.

The first round has been the presentation of projects within the context of the transformation of the former mining area, which embraces all three countries, transforming actual mining sites for new activities, something which has already taken place in the broader economy of the area.

A large group of Mayors and other dignitaries have made an extended tour around the region both presenting and viewing some of the early project proposals, which involve the transformation of a post-industrial landscape. Holes in the ground are to become lakes, country parks, life science parks, business parks etc.

The sites are being visited by a jury of planning and architecture experts and interest is very considerable because the amounts of money, potentially involved, are very large, EUR 100m being the initial target – although, it has been pointed out by representatives of the State Government that there is no commitment to a specific amount; and, it has been further pointed out in the press that the Euregionale 2004, which is to take place in the Münsterland, is receiving EUR 55 million.

The initial project proposals presented are: Lousberg with a country park accessing a model housing estate, with an equestrian component; the Inden landscape park with lakes; the Blausteinsee in Eschweiler, a lake center with a convalescence complex and golf course; additions to the Industriemuseum Zinkhütter Hof, Stolberg, with workers houses etc.; Eurocity, a business park; the Carl Alexander Park on the edge of Baesweiler to become a life-science park; Alsdorf's Haldenlandschaftspark and Energeticon, a museum complex. And more is to be expected.

<http://www.aachener-zeitung.de>

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

EUR 25 MILLION LIMBURG VENTURE

[BIZ/LIFE-SCI: The Hague, September 24]

DSM and the Limburg Development Company, LIOF, presented a joint initiative on 'Limburg Ventures' at the Netherlands Society of Technological Sciences and Engineering's Innovation Conference in The Hague. Limburg Ventures is a venture capital fund investing in promising start-up companies in the fields of life sciences and advanced chemicals; specifically those that are located in or relocating to province of Limburg (NL). DSM and LIOF have been joined as co-founders by the independent informal investor the Mourmans Group (Maastricht).

Limburg Ventures aims to have the fund grow to at least EUR 25 million over the next few years and will seek additional investors

<http://www.limburgventures.com>

FAVINI WINS IN MONTE CARLO

[BIZ: Meerssen (NL), September 23]

Meerssen & Palm, the paper specialists, part of the Italian Favini Group, report that Favini stole the show at Luxe Pack, the leading trade fair for the industry in Monte Carlo, for the presentation of the new corporate identity. In addition to this new image, details of which will be vouchsafed to the local press in October, there is a company focus on two new products (Bindakote and Majestic) for the luxury packing sector.

<http://www.meerssen-palm.com>

MAPPING FROM SPACE

[BIZ/SCI-TECH: Liège, September 20]

Liège-based, IONIC, the world leader in interoperable location-based services, Web-mapping, distributed geo-processing and g-commerce and the Raytheon Company have signed an agreement, under (Raytheon's) NASA Synergy IV contract, to extend the IONIC OpenGIS Web Coverage Service to support a Hierarchical Data Format Earth Observing System (HDF-EOS). IONIC will enable Raytheon to open NASA EOS Data and Information System (EOS-DIS) Data Pools for use by the global OpenGIS network.

www.ionicsoft.com

BALTEAU IN THE RUNNING

[BIZ: Sprimont (B), September 19]

Balteau SA in Sprimont is in the running, among 6 candidates, for selection as Business of the Year for 2003. The award will be made on October 14. Balteau, the hydraulic engineering company, not to be confused with BALTEAU NDT SA in our previous issue, was founded in 1978 and is active in the purification, treatment and pumping of water. It provides pumping solutions, application and analysis, choice of pump and measuring equipment, primarily for companies in the provinces of Liège and Luxembourg.

Balteau's research covers both mechanical and electrical areas. In the period from 1997 to 2001 its revenues rose from EUR 3.56m to EUR 8.25m. It started by employing 23 and currently employs 48. The company is also active in North Africa, Vietnam and Rumania and is looking forward to projects in the Ivory Coast. Its current turnover is EUR 10m and has orders for EUR 9m on its order books. (Source: L'Echo)

<http://www.balteau.be>

TRIANEL IN EMISSION TRADING

[BIZ: Aachen, September 16]

Trading of greenhouse gas emission rights will start in the EU in 2005. The Aachen city power company STAWAG and Trianel, the Euroregional trading company, are cooperating in the establishment of an inventory of emissions for the Aachen energy company.

The background to this cooperation is the pending EU legislation and the participation of both companies in the emission trading project, known as Jupiter, set up by the state of North-Rhine Westphalia and the Fraunhofer Institute. Data for the years 2000 – 2002 have already been inventoried and registration of early action is being prepared.

The objective of this joint project is to provide synergy in competence on both sides in the area of inventory and portfolio management. With the newly acquired know-how, Stawag will be able to assist its local companies in drawing up their inventories and Trianel be able to support its partners and companies countrywide.

Trianel will also be able to offer emission trading to city power companies, distributors and industrial customers.

On October 9, Trianel is setting up a workshop in Cologne for the businesses and power companies involved. Trianel is offering the option of passing on the experience acquired directly and providing support in dealing with the coming legislation. The estimate is that there are 1,000 large and medium-sized companies in North-Rhine Westphalia who emit large volumes of greenhouse gas and will be interested in these trading opportunities.

<http://www.trianel.de>

EVS TARGETS ENGLAND

[BIZ: Liège, September 11]

EVS, the specialist in slow motion replay, is looking for business in England, according to a report by Michel Crahay in La Meuse. The government has released EUR 20m to provide additional equipment for 20 to 250 cinemas to ensure the distribution of specific films in England.

EVS is in the running for the contract. They expect to see 17,000 of their servers in use between now and 2008. The story goes that an EVS server will be used at the next Deauville festival for the presentation of the pre-premier of the latest Disney, 'The World of Nemo'.

EVS employs 100 people in Liège and cut its cost by reducing its staff globally from 190 to 175 last year, but at the end of August the order book recorded orders to the level of EUR 12m.

<http://www.evs.tv>

LIDL OPENS IN MAASTRICHT

[BIZ: Maastricht, September 6]

Lidl, the cut-price, German supermarket chain, which is currently developing 60 new stores in Belgium, is also opening in Maastricht in the Heugemerveld district. There is a Lidl store in nearby Lanaken and one in Venlo. This new building on a Servatius site starts construction in October and is scheduled for completion in April 2004. The supermarket will have a surface area of 9,004 m².

<http://www.servatius.nl>

A380 AIRBUS CARBON FIBERS

[BIZ: Heinsberg (D), September 5]

Tenax Fibers GmbH & Co. KG (a member of the Japan-based, Toho Tenax Group), the leading manufacturer of carbon fibers in Europe, with production facilities at the Oberbruch Business Park in Heinsberg, will be supplying Tenax®, a high-performance carbon fiber, made from a poly-acrylic-nitrile (PAN) precursor material, for the A380 super jumbo Airbus. This is part of the USD 650m worth of contracts with Japanese suppliers for the construction of this aircraft.

<http://www.tenax-fibers.com>

BIJENKORF FOR MAASTRICHT

[BIZ: Maastricht, August 28]

De Bijenkorf, a leading up-market Dutch department store, is opening its twelfth branch in Maastricht. De Bijenkorf is part of Royal Vendex KBB, the main nonfood retail trade company in the Netherlands. The new, 10,000m², Bijenkorf store in Maastricht will be employing 250 and hoping to draw some 3 million customers annually from Maastricht and the surrounding Meuse-Rhine Euroregion. Total investment is estimated at EUR 36.36 million.

The Royal Vendex KBB Group operates fifteen well-known formats with in total approximately 44,000 employees, nearly 1,700 outlets in seven countries and total net turnover of EUR 4.4 billion. Among the Dutch department stores are Hema, Vroom & Dreesmann and of course de Bijenkorf.

<http://www.vendexkbb.com/>

MORE FUN SHOPPING

[BIZ: Liège, August 26]

Vanden Borre, a leading consumer electronics chain which operates 50 retail outlets, employs 650 and has annual revenues of EUR 140 million, is going to open a new store at the entrance to the I' îlot Saint-Michel, place Saint-Lambert in Liège. A special quality of Vanden Borre is that they believe in fun shopping and interactivity; they allow clients to "play" with (try out) their equipment in the store. Vanden Borre is part of a major consumer electronics distribution group in Europe which includes Darty and But in France, Comet in England, BCC in the Netherlands and Datart in Slovakia. The new store in Liège is one of three new outlets, the others being in Antwerp and Roeselare.

<http://www.vandenborre.be>

EUR 360 MILLION FOR SIEMENS TRAINS

[BIZ: Wegberg-Wildenrath (D), August 21]

Siemens has been made preferred bidder to supply up to 56 new three-car diesel trains to FirstGroup / Keolis for the UK's Trans Pennine Express franchise in a deal expected to be worth EUR 360 million.

When finalized, the order will push Siemens up into the number two position for new passenger trains with a 25% share of the UK market since privatization. The Siemens trains, called Desiros, will be specifically designed for operation on the Trans Pennine network that covers the principal inter-city routes across the North of England. The trains will be capable of speeds of 100mph and will deliver significant improvements to passengers, including air conditioning, advanced passenger information systems, CCTV and dedicated facilities for disabled travelers. The new trains are due to enter passenger service in early 2006.

The sale will make Siemens the second largest supplier of new trains in the UK. In addition to supplying the rolling stock, Siemens is also the preferred bidder for a deal to maintain, fuel and clean the new trains at two new purpose-built train care facilities in Manchester and York.

As with the previous Desiro trains that Siemens has supplied to First Great Eastern and South West Trains, all the new rolling stock will be thoroughly tested at Siemens' test track at Wegberg-Wildenrath near Aachen.

<http://www.siemens.co.uk/>

NEW GOLF COURSE AT EYNEBURG

[BIZ: Eyneburg (B), August 20]

Chateau Eyneburg in Hergenrath (Kelmis) is going to be transformed into a hotel with an 18-hole golf course. The story reported in *La Meuse* notes that a Belgo-German property group is proposing the sale of the chateau to a German company, known as Golf Consult, which plans a hotel complex with 60 rooms, tennis courts and swimming pool and 18 hole golf course. The facility will be open to people taking part in seminars and also for others simply looking to relax. According to the Mayor of Kelmis, Mathieu Grosch, the project is acceptable to the council.

<http://www.brf.be>

EXTENSION TO WOONBOULEVARD

[BIZ: Heerlen, August 20]

The retail furniture center, known as the *Woonboulevard*, in Heerlen is going to expand by 55,000m², doubling in size. This has been made possible following the successful conclusion of proceedings against the planning authorities.

<http://www.wdr.de>

AIXTRON AND LUMILEDS

[BIZ: Aachen, August 19]

Aixtron – The Aachen-based, metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) developers of epiwafers (compound semiconductors) for laser diodes - have announced that Lumileds will continue to expand production capacity of its Luxeon™ products through the execution of a multi-system purchase agreement. The first order has already been placed. Lumileds, marketing "Light from Silicon Valley", is a world leading LED manufacturer and can legitimately claim to "provide the world's brightest, longest lasting LEDs". With their recent announcement of having the first warm white LED in mass production, Lumileds continues to push LEDs into broader areas of consumption such as incandescent light replacement.

Aixtron is delighted that its equipment has been chosen once more by Lumileds. Lumileds benefits from the strong growth of the LED demand that market researchers are predicting to increase continuously in the years to come. Aixtron's ability to provide the highest capacity, lowest cost of ownership MOCVD platform, as evidenced by its continual lead of the MOCVD equipment market (67%, VLSI 2002), has been a major factor in Lumileds continued satisfaction.

<http://www.aixtron.de>

ZENTIS TO INVEST EUR 30M

[BIZ: Aachen, August 18]

EUR 30m is to be invested in the expansion and upgrading of production facilities at Zentis, Aachen's 110-year-old producer of jams, jellies, fruit spreads among other delicious things. The company is currently developing its wholesale industrial export business. Zentis employs 1500 throughout Europe and achieved revenues of EUR 511m last year.

<http://www.zentis.de>

NINE HOLES FOR ST VITH

[BIZ: St. Vith (B), August 18]

A new nine hole golf course with a seminar center is to be set up in St. Vith by private investors who are contributing in excess of EUR 2m for the nine hole course - designed as an affordable approach to the sport. There will also be a seminar building with a restaurant.

<http://www.brf.be>

CEGEKA EUR 1M NET PROFIT

[BIZ: Hasselt, August]

The consolidated accounts for Cegeka - which produces custom IT solutions for the health care, safety and environmental sectors - were presented for 2002 earlier this year and Cegeka showed revenues of EUR 22,260,000. In the difficult market conditions the sales rose by 8% as against 2001 and the operational result was EUR 2,155,000. In 2001, there was a small operational loss. The net result for the group in 2002 was EUR 1,005,000. The spectacular growth came from the improvement and operational margins in health care activities. Expectations for 2003 are for further growth in activities by about 5% and there will be higher operational margins on this result that means that these will grow by 15%. Employment is increasing so that the company now will grow to 240 (2002: 231). In the course of the first quarter, the group signed an outsourcing agreement with Care4Data and new outsourcing projects are currently under review. To complete the outsourcing offering Cegeka also offers leasing formulas for hardware and software in cooperation with Atlance, a specialized leasing firm from the Econocom Group. The IBM project for System Engineering and System Watching for the European VM/VSE IBM clients started slowly. However, the second half of 2003 should show a more rapid implementation. (Source: khnl)

<http://www.cegeka.be>

P&V GROWS

[BIZ: Heusden/Zolder (B), August]

Heusden/Zolder-based P&V Elektrotechniek specializing in the engineering and assembly of custom made switch and distribution boxes and printed circuits has been in business for 17 years and employs 100. At the end of 2002, it went Euroregional and set up Panel+ in Maastricht. Now it is moving west to Ghent and setting up P&V West.

The company was set up on July 23, 2003, with a capital of EUR 234,000, and started business on August 4 in the premises of Rogelec in Ghent, which has a 2000m² production hall, and 250 m² of office space. IP&V has now taken over Rogelec, which went bankrupt in 2003, and included Glaverbel, Agfa Gevaert, BASF, Volvo, Stora Enzo, etc. among its clients. As a result of its association with P&V West, P&V Elektrotechniek now has a number of exclusive licenses relating to computer floors, control rooms and 19-inch racks. The P&V West product range has been completed by the Okken license, which allows for the supply of distribution panels with the highest degree of operating security. (Source: khnl)

<http://www.pnv.be>

LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

V BIRD

[LOG: Maastricht/Dublin, September 18/26]

The first VBird A320 Airbus landed, Friday September 26, at Maastricht-Aachen Airport; the VBird website is active and you can now book your flight to Nice at the end of October on line. The press conference and celebrations ensued at Niederrhein (Laarbruch) and Roberto Stinga has made his last appearance as a member of the board of the European Regions Airline Association in Dublin where the following interview was recorded.

September 18 :

Mr Stinga resigned as CEO of Netherlands-based Air Exel three months ago and this winter will launch a new low cost carrier V Bird, based at Niederrhein Airport, Germany. V Bird will operate four A320s leased from ILFC and initial routes will be Munich, Berlin (Schönefeld), Copenhagen, Vienna, Maastricht, Nice and Helsinki. Stinga says Niederrhein is a convenient low-cost airport to congested Düsseldorf (a one-hour/55 km drive away) with an 11 million catchment area.

"We will offer a very simple fare structure, with fares starting from EUR 29 one way. Moreover, we have taken on board the comments of regular air travelers, listened to their grievances and complaints, and are adapting our product accordingly," he says. For example, V Bird will offer 162 leather-upholstered seats in a 32-inch seat pitch (the A320 can accommodate 180 passengers). Some 200 names were considered before the name V Bird was determined. "We choose it because the V can be anything people want it to be, having initially rejected one suggested – Value Bird," he tells ERA General Assembly News.

<http://www.vbird.com>

LANAKEN-MAASTRICHT 2004

[INFRA: Hasselt, September 26]

The Flemish community is going to invest in the rail cargo link between Lanaken and Maastricht in 2004. The Minister of 'Mobility', Gilbert Bossuyt has reserved EUR 1m for the purpose. On the Dutch side, the Limburg provincial government has reserved EUR 3m. The six-kilometer section of track will, in the first instance, serve the Sappi paper factory, which has locations in Lanaken and Maastricht. Sappi alone will be able to transport 100,000 tons annually by rail.

<http://www.hbvl.be>

GROWTH AT LIEGE AIRPORT

[INFRA: Liège, September 17]

At Liège Airport, on the cargo side, tonnage continues to increase with 236,870 tons thus far in 2003 as against 203,486 tons for the same period in 2002; putting the January through August figures up by 16.4%. Liège Cargo is in 11th place in Europe, nudging at the 10th, and 50th worldwide. Cargo results are up in part due to three weekly flights between Liège and Korea operated by Polar Air and six weekly flights to India. Passengers' figures are up too; and 133,954 passengers have flown to 14 charter destinations since the beginning of the year; up 7.2% on 2002. The passengers come largely from the Walloon country, although there is a significant number of passengers from the Netherlands, attracted by the free parking and the speed by which formalities are dealt with.

<http://www.liegeairport.com>

SITTARD-GENK DIRECT

[INFRA: Sittard (NL), September 5]

There are plans for new inter-Limburg rail links crossing the Meuse from Sittard to Genk. This rail link would be destined both for passenger traffic, possibly light rail, and for cargo.

The municipality of Sittard-Geleen, in its capacity as a focus municipality, has given an external bureau permission to start working on the plan. Those expected to be involved are the municipalities of Sittard-Geleen, Stein, Maasmechelen and Genk and the provincial government (NL), the Belgian transport company De Lijn and the Belgian investment companies GOM and LRM in Hasselt. EU Representatives are also expected to be involved.

The proposed route, on the Belgian side, would be the old mine railway from Eisden-Maasmechelen via As to Genk. On the Dutch side, use would be made of the DSM line from Stein harbor to rail junction at Krawinkel in Geleen. The project will be launched officially next year. (Source: Limburgs Dagblad)

<http://www.ld.nl>

TNT LIEGE TO NAPLES & FLORENCE

[LOG: Liège August 29]

Leading B2B carrier TNT Express has today announced that it will launch new air linehaul connections between its European hub in Liège, Belgium and the Italian cities of Naples and Florence. This expansion brings the number of airports served by TNT's European Air Network to 62.

From September 9, a TNT Express BAe146 aircraft - with a capacity of 10 tonnes - will make four weekly flights on the new routes. This will bring the total number of Italian airports served by TNT Express to eight - more than competitors DHL and UPS, which operate to five and four airports respectively. The six Italian airports already served by TNT are: Milan Linate, Rome Ciampino, Pescara, Turin, Treviso and Bologna.

<http://www.tnt.com>

ENERGY CITIES

[INFRA: Heerlen, August 22]

The Mayor and Council of Heerlen have decided to become a member of 'Energy Cities' to participate in information transfer relating to the project on the large-scale applications of mine water. This allows Heerlen to join under the conditions of the European Interreg IIIB funding program. One of the objectives of the EU in respect of Interreg 3B is to promote transnational cooperation and accordingly promote European integration. To meet the requirements, in addition to the pilot programs from Heerlen and Midlothian, targeting the co-financing of investment in mine water, space will be created for softer transnational aspects such as the transmission of knowledge. *Energie-Cités* is concerned with promoting sustainable energy policy through local action.

<http://www.energie-cites.org/>

GLASPALEIS OPENS

[INFRA: Heerlen, August 22]

The Glaspaleis is officially open from September 1. The restoration of Fritz Peutz's original building, one of the 1,000 most significant buildings in the 20th Century, restored by the Heerlen architect Wiel Arets and Jo Coenen, the master builder from Maastricht, includes a public library, the City Art Gallery, the Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art, the Heerlen Music School, the Vitruvianum Architecture Center, *De Spiegel* film theater and various restaurants.

<http://www.heerlen.nl>

GIS DOWN THE DRAINS

[INFRA: Hasselt, August 22]

The Limburg inter-communal utility, Interelectra, is going to use the GIS system software developed for the City of Louvain for inspecting the drains. Interelectra will be paying EUR 64,930 annually for the first five years for the privilege. The Louvain drain module is a graphic databank of the most recent information about drains, inspection, hatches, connections and the flow of water underground and was used to inspect the whole of the Louvain system in the 90's.

The utility has been given the task of making an inventory of Limburg's drains, managing them and, where necessary, extending them. Interelectra's Walter Cremers said that, at present, with the City of Louvain, 18 of the 44 Limburg municipalities are part of the new drain utility. He expects that 30 will join.

<http://www.hbvl.be>

A NEW BRIDGE

[INFRA: Maastricht, August 15]

Maastricht's new cable arch bridge, which links the new Céramique district to the old part of the town will be called the high bridge or *Hoeg Brögk* in the city dialect; it is 164m long, 7.2m wide, and 45m above NAP and was built by Van Splunder Funderingstechniek and De Kil/Sarens. The design was by the Greisch Engineering Bureau in Liège, famous for its bridges. The investment is estimated at around EUR 5 million.

Under normal conditions, the bridge will be 10m above the water. It is designed for the use of pedestrians and cyclists. Bridges play an important role in the history of Maastricht and the bridge at Maastricht provided the link, in Roman times, between Cologne, Tongres and the Channel coast.

<http://www.webcontentnow.com>

GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

LEARNING SYNERGIES IN LIEGE

[EDU: Liège, September 3]

An information day was held on complementary programs available under the new cooperative system where 26 universities and higher education institutions representing 40,000 students in the Province of Liège get together to provide programs within the *Pôle Mosan* framework. Further information may be found at the link.

<http://www.polemosan.be>

EURON OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

[EDU/LIFE-SCI: Maastricht, August 19]

The Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW) as a research school has recognized the European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON). Research schools are centers of high quality research where there is a structured focus on the training of young researchers. According to the Examining Committee for recognition of research schools (ECOS) the researchers must meet the requirements in terms of educational organization, finance and scientific program and international cooperation. Recognition is valid for six years.

The school is part of a cooperative association, which includes the universities of Aachen, Bonn, Brussels, Cologne, Louvain, Liège, the Catholic University of Louvain and the University of the Saarland.

The institute grew out of the Institute of Brain and Behavior at the University of Maastricht. Research and educational programs focus on the relationship between the structure and the function of the nervous system in health and disease and on cognition and behavior. They are the interface between basic clinical cognitive and behavioral neuroscience, with a focus on cognition, affect and sensorimotor functions.

<http://www.euron.unimaas.nl>

MBAS IN DUEREN

[EDU: Düren (D), August]

The entrepreneurship courses leading to an MBA in Düren have, a year after their introduction as the first in the region, achieved AQAS accreditation, which will be presented officially in October. The program is provided by the Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences AcIAS of the Applied Sciences University.

In addition to business, economics, legal and organizational topics, economic theory and ethics, communication has been added to the program. The degree was granted by the Aachen Applied Sciences University and, in the view of Professor Johannes Gartzten, president of the coordinating committee, it will add EUR 10,000 – 12,000 to the graduates' income.

The program fees are EUR 16,000; these are, often, subsidized by employers. The University also offers financial assistance. The Savings Bank in Düren is also offering assistance in financing the program. (Source: Anja Klingbeil in the Aachener Zeitung)

<http://www.aachener-zeitung.de>

LIFE SCIENCES AND SCI-TECH

CROSS BORDER HEALTH CARE

[LIFE-SCI, Maastricht, September 2]

The cross-border network in Meuse-Rhine includes first, the participating hospitals: the Aachen University Clinic, Maastricht University Hospital (azM), the University Hospital Center in Liège (CHU), East Limburg Hospital in Genk (ZOL) and the St.Nikolaus Hospital in Eupen. The participating Health Insurance funds are CM, SM in Belgium, CZ and VGZ in the Netherlands and AOK, BKK, VdAK, etc. in Germany.

There is of course motivation for cooperation, in view of the fact that, in future, no single hospital will be able to offer the full range of high-tech medicine and that certain treatments require specific population levels.

Thus far, the Aachen University Clinic and Maastricht University Hospital have cooperated on pediatric heart surgery, maxillofacial surgery, PET-scans, Gamma knife radio surgery and in the cardiovascular center. Other contacts among specialists have involved surgery/vascular surgery; obstetrics and gynecology; radiology; oncology (within the CONCERT framework), ophthalmology, neurosurgery, pulmonology, neurology, pediatrics, urology, ORL, psychiatry and clinical genetics.

On the insurance front, there has been simplification of access and payment procedures and the IZOM project has been completed; there is an international health card provided by CZ and AOK and there are contracts with hospitals abroad. There has also been progress in the cross border delivery of blood products in emergency cases, in the provision of cross border ambulance and trauma helicopter services and in Euroregional public health reports.

An EU Interreg III sponsored project, called 'Cross border care in Meuse-Rhine' supports communication between medical professionals, cross border integrated 'chain care', MRSA-protocols for hospitals in border areas, transparency of hospital cost; it pays attention to transcultural aspects; it is concerned with the Euroregional quality circle and with procedures in oncology (mammography screening, tumor bank, teledermato-oncology). There are also cross-border contacts among patients groups; networks for the care for the elderly; the Euroregional Health Report, already referred to; Euroregional environmental health projects; cooperation in the care of drug addicts; cooperation among institutes for higher education and Euroregional Health Conferences.

As regards cooperation between the Vesalius Hospital in Tongres and Maastricht, which started on February 1, 2002, there have been patient exchanges; specialists working in both hospitals; training for interns from University of Maastricht in Tongres; training of assistants from University of Maastricht in Tongres and the participation of Tongres in Maastricht projects.

In summary, Meuse-Rhine is a beacon for future orientation, with its free access to health care; cooperation among hospitals and health insurance funds; cooperation between ambulance and public health services and patient organizations and the support and engagement of the authorities.

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WHY DO A LIFE SCIENCE MBA ?

[LIFE-SCI: Liège, August 29]

Feike Sijbesma, Member of the Board of DSM and Chairman of EuropaBio recently stressed the need for well-educated entrepreneurial managers in the fast growing life sciences industry (see our streaming video at www.mbalifesciences.info). DSM is one of the key-players in this industry. Over 20% of DSM's entire turnover is related to life sciences and this proportion will increase in the years to come.

The MBA program in Life Sciences is a joint initiative of The University of Maastricht, Graduate School of International Management and the University of Liège, Business School in cooperation with Aachen University. The program starts in January 2004 and will last 18 months. Classes will be held bi-weekly on Fridays and Saturdays.

The educational approach centers on the applicability of managerial concepts for practical, life sciences industry issues. Core courses will be on management and economics: Strategy, Marketing, Logistics, Organizational Behavior, etc; while the advanced courses develop managerial skills with an in-depth focus on life sciences in Knowledge Management and Intellectual Property. The concentration courses offer specialization subjects like ethical issues or business models in life sciences. Then the students will have to turn their ideas into a final consultancy project with strategic relevance.

<http://www.crgb.be>

DSM PATENTS AND PRODUCTS

[BIZ: Heerlen, August 22]

For the second year in succession, DSM, the international life science and performance materials company, has been named by the European Patent Office (EPO) as the company filing the largest number of biotechnology patent applications in Europe. This high volume of applications is directly attributable to the success of DSM's two-year genomics program, which has generated almost 400 patent applications as a result of its groundbreaking research and development.

According to EPO, DSM filed a total of 396 patent applications, with the number of biotechnology patents rising from 156 applications in 2001 to 237 applications in 2002. DSM will be using enzymes identified and patented under the genomics project, among other things, for the production of food ingredients for the prevention of diabetes and obesity, as well as to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease. The genomics project analyzed the complete DNA sequence of the *Aspergillus niger* fungus, one of DSM's most important production organisms, giving access to a whole new variety of previously unknown enzymes.

A number of these enzymes are under development and will be used for the production of nutritional ingredients, examples being the development of the key ingredients for a new recovery drink for athletes and the de-bittering of valuable protein hydrolysates.

<http://www.dsm.com>