

NovaCentris: Open Innovation Platform - Business Case in the Textile Industry

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Benoit Balmana is an engineer in Mechanical Engineering, with additional training in project Management. He has more than 15 years of experience working in the field of innovation. Benoit has worked in France for a transfer technology office and for a venture capital company, dedicated to early stage investment. In 2006, he joined the start-up NANOLEDGE which specializes in nanocomposites, to ensure the corporate and business development of the company. Since 2010, Mr. Balmana has been President and CEO of NanoQuébec where he has defined and implemented a new strategy to promote nanotechnology as sources of innovation and competitiveness. Dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship, Benoit is also a lecturer at Ecole Technologie Supérieure in the Innovation Management program, mentor at the “M Network” of the entrepreneurship foundation and founder of the NovaCentris open innovation portal.

Abstract

Open innovation is a famous trend in the field of collaboration and innovation for companies. In order to facilitate the open innovation process, we have developed with different partners in Quebec and Canada an OPEN INNOVATION PLATFORM named NovaCentris. This platform allows SMEs to communicate free technical challenges to a large community of researchers, to identify potential solutions and partners and finally, to facilitate project public funding. For now, the platform counts more than 150 technical challenges provided by over 90 SMEs. More than 350 solutions have been received and more than 45 projects are now running thanks to the match making. We propose to present this open innovation platform and to highlight challenges and project in the field of textiles.

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