



**LEUVEN**  
RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT



# K.U.Leuven Research & Development

ASSOCIATIE  
K.U. LEUVEN

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



# K.U.Leuven Research & Development

K.U.Leuven Research & Development (LRD) was established in 1972 as one of the first technology transfer offices in Europe and has a long tradition in collaboration with industry, patenting, licensing and spin-off creation. LRD is dedicated to building bridges between science and industry and to transferring knowledge and technologies to the marketplace.

LRD's multidisciplinary team of over 60 people includes legal counsellors, IPR officers, business development managers and a specialised financial and administrative staff incorporating EU Framework Programme advisors. The team guides both researchers and companies through all aspects of the technology transfer process.

Through the establishment of LRD Research Divisions a unique decision and incentive mechanism has been implemented within the university structure. It enables researchers to manage their technology transfer activities in an autonomous but supported way, and to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in combination with high-level research and education.

Key figures for LRD in 2010 are:

- total turnover of 150 million euro;
- about 1200 new contracts managed;
- 180 invention disclosures resulting in the filing of 100 new patent families;
- increase of the number of spin-offs created to a cumulative total of 92.



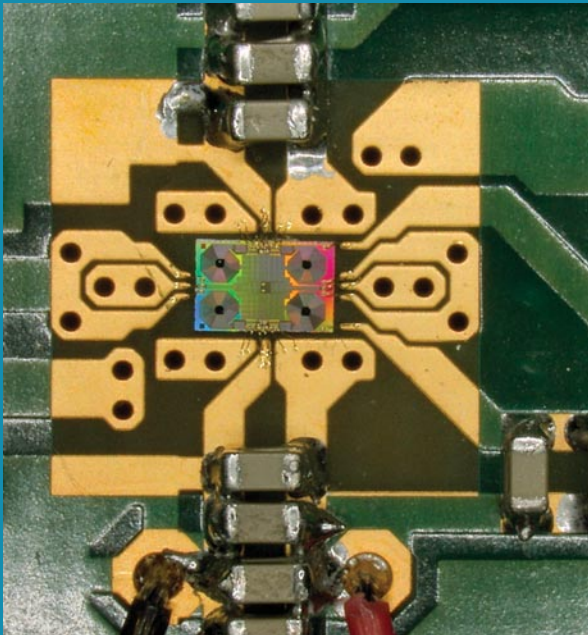
In 2008, LRD was awarded the IPTEC Tech Transfer Award in Frankfurt. This international award recognises institutions with an outstanding record in technology transfer: making the bridge between science and industry, and getting technologies to the market.

# Guiding the technology transfer process

## Contract and collaborative research

LRD supports diverse collaborations with both SMEs and large companies. These vary from consultancy, services to use specialised equipment, (virtual) prototyping and clinical trials, to long-term research projects on a bilateral basis or in large(r) consortia (such as EU Framework Programmes). As they are of key importance for success, great attention is paid to setting up well-balanced collaboration agreements which take into account the interests of all parties involved. More specifically, LRD provides legal, financial and administrative support with respect to the following activities:

- raising awareness and transferring information and knowledge;
- technology brokerage;
- defining and negotiating contracts and collaboration/consortium agreements (including non-disclosure and material transfer agreements);
- financial and administrative project management;
- specialised services for EU Framework Programmes;
- representing the university in new initiatives on R&D programmes, centres and institutes;
- follow-up of the relevant legislation and regulations with respect to technology transfer.



## Intellectual property rights management

The successful commercialisation or exploitation of the university's intellectual property (IP) requires an adequate protection of the IP as well as an appropriate strategy to transfer the IP from the academic world to the business sector. As a result, LRD provides specialised support with respect to the following activities:

- raising awareness and transferring information and knowledge on intellectual property rights (IPR);
- providing access to patent literature and databases;
- assessing the feasibility, patentability and market potential of an invention;
- determining an appropriate protection strategy;
- drafting and filing patent applications;
- follow-up of patent procedures and costs;
- negotiating and drafting non-disclosure and material transfer agreements;
- negotiating and drafting license agreements;
- selecting industrial partners.

## Spin-off creation

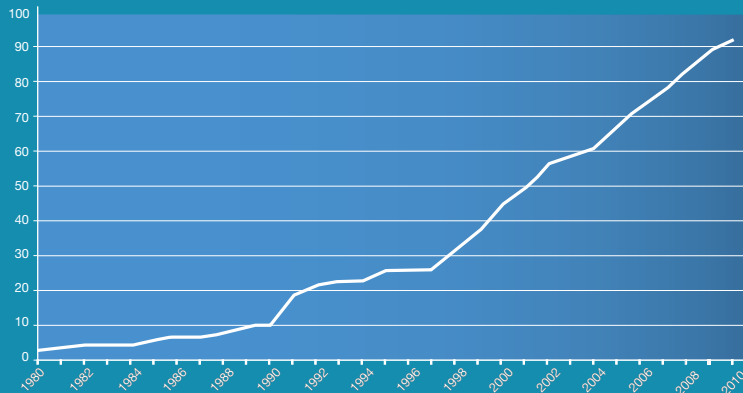
The creation of spin-off companies has become an important mechanism for the transfer of university research results. LRD has a long tradition in supporting spin-off creation. Over the past three decades, this has led to the creation of 92 (end of 2010) spin-off companies, directly employing more than 3,000 people in the Leuven region only.

LRD offers an extensive support with respect to:

- awareness creation and scouting;
- development and validation of a business plan;
- determining an appropriate IPR strategy, including a freedom-to-operate analysis;
- finding investors including access to its own seed capital fund (Gemma Frisius Fund);
- composition of the management team;
- negotiation and legal support with respect to bylaws, shareholder agreements, and technology transfer and licensing agreements;
- finding infrastructure, including access to its incubators and science parks;
- growth management of spin-off companies;
- training to strengthen the spin-off team's management skills;
- stimulating networking and clustering.



Cumulative number of spin-offs created



# Knowledge region

Centrally located in Flanders and Europe, the Leuven region, with its renowned knowledge institutes, its incubators and science parks, and the presence of venture capitalists, provides a fertile breeding-ground for innovation and high-tech entrepreneurship. Knowledge institutes such as K.U.Leuven, the Leuven University Hospitals, the Inter-university Micro-Electronics Centre (imec) and important research departments of the VIB (Flemish Institute for Biotechnology) generate a huge inflow of state-of-the-art knowledge that brings about a myriad of innovative ideas for new as well as existing companies.

LRD plays an active role in supporting knowledge-driven regional development, through close collaboration with the city of Leuven, the province of Flemish Brabant and the Flemish government. It is also one of the key players in setting up the TTR-ELAt project, the Top Technology Region Eindhoven-Leuven-Aachen triangle. TTR-ELAt aims to foster the knowledge economy in Europe through cross-border and interregional cooperation.

LRD actively supports networking. It was one of the co-founders of Leuven.Inc, the network for high-tech entrepreneurship in the Leuven region, and several technology clusters such as DSP Valley.

# Innovation & incubation centres and science parks

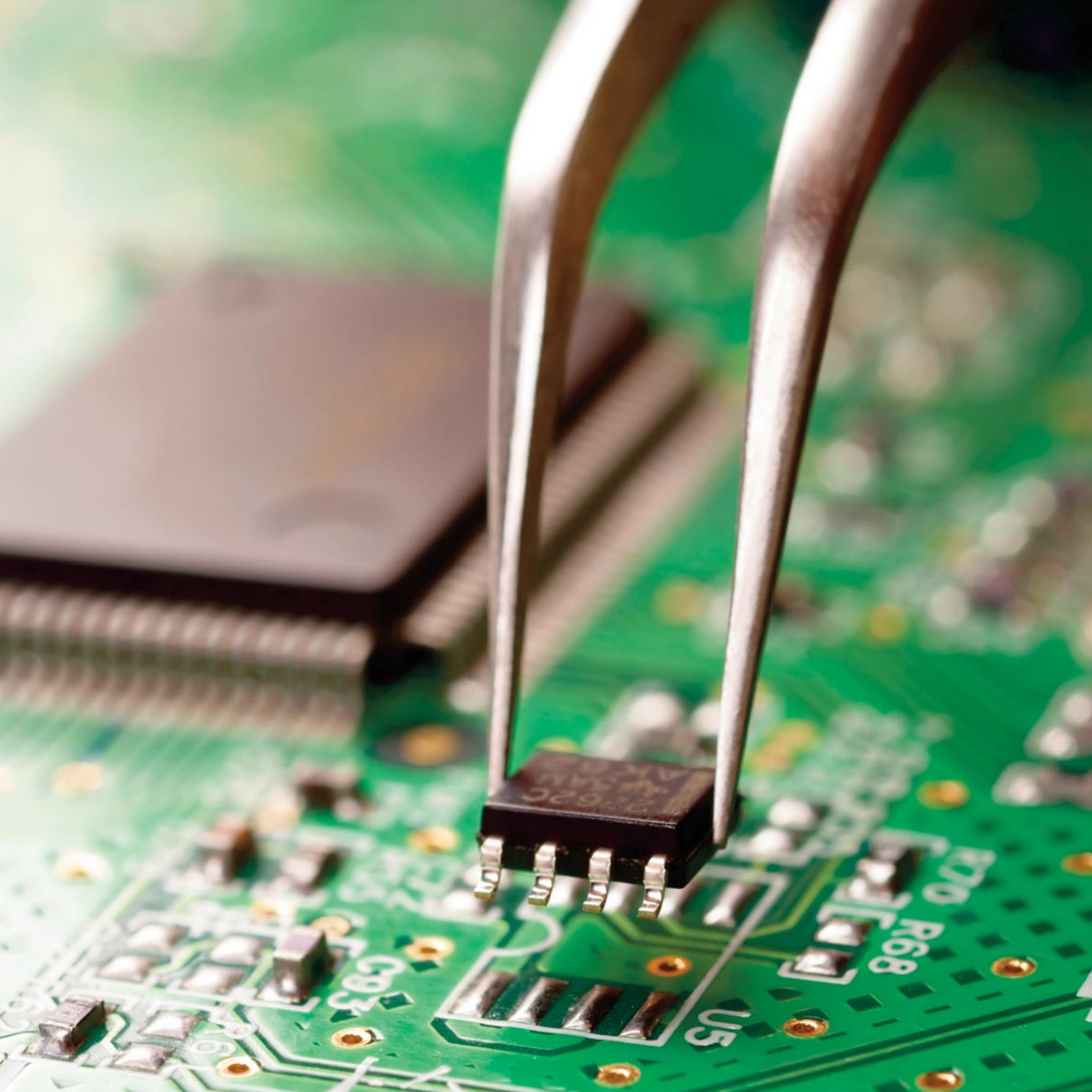


Leuven has two science parks. The Haasrode Science Park, with a total area of 136 hectares, accommodates numerous high-technology businesses (both K.U.Leuven spin-off companies as well as other companies). In 2004, the Arenberg Science Park, with a working area of 13 hectares, was opened. It is situated close to the K.U.Leuven Arenberg campus, imec and the Leuven University Hospitals.

In this setting, two specialised incubators are available to support new research-oriented, innovative businesses.

The K.U.Leuven Innovation & Incubation Centre (I&I) provides office, prototyping and production space. The Leuven Bio-Incubator is designed specifically for biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Both incubators offer shared facilities, meeting rooms and support services.







# Specialised instruments for technology transfer and spin-off creation

## Gemma Frisius Fund K.U.Leuven

The Gemma Frisius Fund K.U.Leuven (GFF) is a seed capital fund, established in 1997 as a joint venture between K.U.Leuven, KBC Private Equity and BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity. The objective of the fund is to stimulate the creation and growth of K.U.Leuven spin-off companies. The GFF provides seed capital in the very early phases and combines the research and technology transfer expertise of the university with the financial and investment expertise of the financial partners. Currently, the fund has invested about 24.5 million euro to support the creation and growth of 37 spin-off companies.



## Centre for Drug Design and Discovery

The Centre for Drug Design and Discovery (CD3) is a multidisciplinary centre and investment fund, created as an incubation platform in the field of drug discovery. It focuses on the discovery of new and innovative small molecule drugs in collaboration with academic biology research groups or small (spin-off) companies. The fund delivers financial means in combination with expert drug discovery and medicinal chemistry support (including a team of medicinal chemists, compound libraries, HTS, in silico drug design and screening, preliminary ADME-Tox and IP evaluations). In this way it enables the validation of innovative targets and the discovery of novel drugs. K.U.Leuven and the European Investment Fund (EIF) established CD3 in 2006. CD3 has a total capital of 24 million euro.

# Facilitating access to state-of-the-art knowledge and technology

K.U.Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) was founded in 1425 and currently (2010) employs about 5200 researchers with a research budget of 347 million euro (excluding the first income stream and university hospitals). The university has a long-standing tradition in top-level research in life sciences, engineering, exact sciences and humanities. Through the creation of multidisciplinary centres of excellence and by supporting strong links with the Leuven University Hospitals, one of the most modern and dynamic hospital infrastructures in Europe, it actively supports cross-border innovations.



K.U.Leuven is a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a group of 21 European research-intensive universities committed to the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Since 2005, LRD has extended its services to the K.U.Leuven Association, connecting K.U.Leuven with 12 institutes of higher education in Flanders.





K.U.Leuven Research & Development  
Minderbroedersstraat 8A box 5105  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

tel. + 32 16 32 65 00  
fax + 32 16 32 65 15  
[lrd@kuleuven.be](mailto:lrd@kuleuven.be)  
[lrd.kuleuven.be](http://lrd.kuleuven.be)