ANTWERP
JOIN A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

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Antwerp holds all the cards: it has the second largest port in Europe and the second chemical cluster in the world. And new clusters are growing fast:

- Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence
- Sustainable chemistry
- Product development

Antwerp has many of the necessary pieces for strong ecosystems. And in all these areas, it has specialised knowledge institutions, good education, large and small companies, capital, customers, etc. And last but not least, it has an open culture and free thinkers, making it ideal for open innovation. Antwerp is a world of opportunities.

The centrepiece for IoT/AI is The Beacon. Around 50 companies have now established themselves around the University of Antwerp and the knowledge institute imec. The Beacon focuses on the port, industry, and smart city (including smart mobility).

Sustainable chemistry revolves around the incubator for sustainable chemistry BlueChem. The direct link with the chemical cluster is an asset that is unique to Antwerp. BlueChem is located at Blue Gate Antwerp, a business park that focuses entirely on the circular economy.

Finally, Antwerp is with ANTWERP POWERED BY CREATIVES, heavily involved in the cluster of product development, essential in the world of IoT and the circular economy. This is how the three main Antwerp clusters connect.
As a European hub for world trade, the Port of Antwerp is a pioneer of digitisation and innovation. The vision is to create a digital nervous system across the port. The virtual assistant APICA (Antwerp Port Information and Control Assistant) comprises an integration of all kinds of sensors, drones, cameras and smart data processing. The applications are many: analysis of traffic counts, rapid detection of oil spills, tracking of containers and vehicles.

FROM OPERATOR AND REGULATOR TO INNOVATOR
As a community builder, the Port of Antwerp wants to support the port community in the use of smart digital applications. To achieve this, the Port of Antwerp relies on partnerships with companies, knowledge groups, universities and startups. They map opportunities and help build tomorrow’s solutions:

- ‘PortXL’ introduces startups with a focus on the maritime world,
- ‘NxtPort’ connects maritime service providers and supplies the necessary data to optimise the operation of the logistics chain.
- ‘The Beacon’ unites startups, scale-ups and corporates with the academic world around the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.

The Port of Antwerp acts as a supporting innovation platform, which allows experiments with new technology. Through digitisation and innovation the Port of Antwerp has set course to the port of the future.

The Beacon is a smart innovation hub in the centre of Antwerp, focused on the key Internet of Things & Artificial Intelligence domains of smart city, mobility, logistics and industry. It is a community where tech companies, industry, research institutes, the city and the Port of Antwerp join forces to develop tomorrow’s high-quality smart applications. Within one year, nearly 50 startups, scale-ups and corporates took an office or flex seat in The Beacon. A dedicated The Beacon management brings these companies together in a broad community to create new products and services in open innovation.

VENTURE BUILDING AND ACQUISITION
The Beacon will act as a venture builder for its founding fathers: incubated ideas within these partners will be developed into independent companies. The Beacon will also develop an international strategy, attracting new companies from abroad to The Beacon community. This strategy will give new opportunities to the companies in The Beacon community.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THE BEACON?
Are you a startup, scale-up, mid-sized company or a corporation, and are you ready to join our unique ecosystem? Then take the plunge and join The Beacon community. If you are looking for a place to work frequently, contact us for an optional office or flex seat.

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PORT OF ANTWERP: THE PORT OF THE FUTURE

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LIVING LAB AND SMART ZONE
The city of Antwerp welcomes businesses, researchers, citizens and city officials to experiment with smart technologies that aim to make urban life more enjoyable and sustainable. Antwerp is a living lab where solutions are tested and co-created with its inhabitants.

In collaboration with research institute imec, the Antwerp Smart Zone was set up. In this carefully selected area of the city, a fine-meshed network of smart sensors and wireless gateways has been installed. The sensors enable real-time monitoring of parameters, such as air quality, (bike) traffic, pedestrian flows and many others. People are able to interact directly with the developed smart applications.

Different solutions were already tested in the Antwerp Smart Zone. The smart lighting and safe crossing projects, for instance, are both answers to real life challenges the population and the city officials came up with. The heat app – warning the population for extreme heat and offering solutions – has also been tested in the smart zone.

Can technology and innovation improve quality of life in the city? We believe so and are happy to invite you to be part of the living lab.

TALKING TRAFFIC
A user-friendliness city depends on the adjustment of its traffic controllers. When adjusted correctly, traffic controllers (such as traffic lights) increase security, reduce dwell time and improve traffic flow in urban intersections. Last year, in conjunction with research institute imec, the City of Antwerp realised a project with smart traffic controllers. The result is shown in the combination of the traffic management computer and smart traffic lights in the centre of Antwerp. In a next phase, police, ambulance and public transport vehicles will be able to control smart traffic lights based on their real-time positions, giving them a wave of green lights across consecutive intersections.

SMART MAP
When it comes to making a modal shift, the biggest issue for most people is a lack of information.

The City of Antwerp is actively taking away this barrier. It developed an intermodal planner and a dynamic smart map with real-time information.

MOBILITY-AS-A-SERVICE
The switch to multimodal transport makes acquiring tickets, finding and accessing vehicles, etc. more complex. To simplify this, the City of Antwerp has organised various project calls for Mobility-as-a-Service providers.

The city supports MaaS providers and mobility solution providers in the development of their services and products, focusing on open data, data standardisation and interoperability. Furthermore, the City of Antwerp acts as a facilitator to develop a MaaS eco-system in Antwerp.

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HOW INNOVATION ENTERS THE PUBLIC SECTOR
The City of Antwerp and its IT business unit Digipolis are building a startup community and ecosystem. Digipolis is doing this in parallel with an innovative IT development and procurement strategy. This has ensured Antwerp a place on the European Smart City map.
Digipolis depends on its valuable knowledge community: startup companies, students, research institutes and creative minds.

BUY FROM STARTUPS
Startups and creative minds have several opportunities: speed, inventiveness and fresh new perspectives are some of them. Antwerp takes many initiatives to support startups and creatives. One of the most efficient methods is to buy products and services from these startups and creatives. Buy From Startups is a unique slimmed-down purchase process within the Public Procurement Act that enables Digipolis to develop a startup ecosystem. The collaboration with this ecosystem, in combination with modular software development, allows for an influx of innovation.

ANTWERP CITY PLATFORM AS A SERVICE
Innovation requires openness and curiosity. This is why Digipolis translates the city of Antwerp’s wishes and needs as much as possible into ‘challenges’ and creates as much room as possible for the creative proposals and solutions of the startups and innovative companies. In this way they also developed the Antwerp City Platform as a Service (ACPaaS), a state-of-the-art microservices architecture with which future-oriented and modern IT solutions are developed.

BLUE GATE ANTWERP
Blue Gate Antwerp is Belgium’s first circular, eco-effective, waterbound business park. Sustainable, innovative businesses in chemicals, cleantech and logistics will find the breeding ground for their future growth here. The incubator for sustainable chemistry, BlueChem, and the pre-incubator, Blue_App, are the first tenants. More will follow soon.

The site is located next to the river Scheldt, close to the centre of Antwerp. Blue Gate Antwerp is a ground-breaking public-private partnership for businesses wanting to take control of the future, starting today. These goals will be achieved by resolutely choosing innovation. Together with like-minded entrepreneurs, Blue Gate Antwerp activates circular flows at micro and macro levels. This results in cost efficiency and environmentally-friendly collaborations both on and off site.

Businesses located at Blue Gate Antwerp are committed to eco-effective industry: how can we reduce the consumption of raw materials while producing the same or even better products? These ideas will be familiar to anyone making the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The site’s location along the river Scheldt offers significant strategic, economic and environmental advantages. Barges provide a sound alternative to road transport, with the opportunity to reduce air pollution, noise and traffic gridlock.

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BlueChem is the incubator for sustainable chemistry. BlueChem helps startups and growth companies in the field of sustainable chemistry to accelerate, bring products to market faster and reach their full commercial potential as quickly as possible.

BlueChem focuses on four key areas in the field of sustainable chemistry: the valorisation of waste and side streams, renewable chemicals, advanced sustainable products and process optimisation.

BlueChem offers its residents ready-to-use and customisable infrastructure as well as a variety of supporting services. It provides direct access to knowledge and expertise through its extensive network of international chemical companies, renowned research centres and the five Flemish universities. Additionally, the BlueChem Kickstart Fund gives financial support to companies to help customise their lab space.

BlueChem is a unique public-private partnership between industry, government and research centres with the joint ambition to strengthen the future of sustainable chemistry in Flanders. The incubator is located at Blue Gate Antwerp, an innovative and circular business park at the heart of the largest chemical cluster in Europe.

Projects by forgeforward and vito.

No other seaport is as centrally located in Europe as the Port of Antwerp. This central location offers fast and reliable connections with the European hinterland, as well as advantages and opportunities.

The Port of Antwerp’s Churchill Industrial Zone project site offers an investment opportunity for companies or investors in the manufacturing and processing industry that are actively working on the transition to a circular economy.

INTEGRATION INDUSTRIAL AND CHEMICAL CLUSTER

The Churchill Industrial Zone is a multimodal site with an area of approximately 88 hectares near the Churchill dock, situated on the right bank of the Port of Antwerp. The site is located near a major pipeline hub and dock complex. This location in an industrial area and near the biggest integrated petrochemical cluster in Europe, can result in an interaction with existing companies and suppliers. This cluster-strengthening effect creates a competitive advantage for both new and existing companies.

FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

The Churchill Industrial Zone is of major strategic interest for the Port Authority. This is why the site is reserved for one or several innovative projects with a focus on:

• sustainability;
• energy transition;
• added value;
• cluster strengthening;
• employment.

Projects by Port of Antwerp and City of Antwerp.
ANTWERP. POWERED BY CREATIVES. is an action-based platform that concretises cooperation between creative sector and other sectors. The platform believes in the strength of collaboration and in the added value of the creative industry as a driver for innovation. It is an open house where designers, companies, education and government sit together and acquire or share knowledge, launch projects and challenge or inspire others.

The community consists of more than 2,000 professionals. One of the core activities of ANTWERP. POWERED BY CREATIVES. is the organisation of cocreation programmes, cooperations between traditional companies and creatives to solve innovation challenges.

ANTWERP. POWERED BY CREATIVES. is financed by provincial development organisation POM and the City of Antwerp, in cocreation with creative hub De Winkelhaak | House Of C, University of Antwerp, Antwerp Management School, Sint-Lucas Antwerp, Karel de Grote University College.

Antwerp has a strong reputation for innovation and design of all types, including industrial design, thanks to the University of Antwerp’s excellent course in product development.

Companies at home and abroad conduct their first market tests here, and experiment with new business models. The multitude of things being launched in Antwerp is staggering. Antwerp designers almost always play an important part in these initiatives. They themselves participate in the creation of services or products, or they are the first users, the bonuses of a superdiverse, creative region at human level.

To multiplicate this effect the University of Antwerp is developing a new Design Factory, where education, pre-incubation and incubation are connected. A project still on the drawing table, but with a great opportunity to strengthen the creative cluster in Antwerp.

“Antwerp is an exciting city - large enough to take its place alongside other world cities - and yet small enough to really make it happen, to stay in motion, to be a bit rebellious. Trends begin here, something new is always in the pipeline and pioneering ideas are born”

Isabel Van den Broeck
director of Creative Belgium
The SuperNova technology festival will be back on 8 - 11 October 2020 in Antwerp. On 10 and 11 October everyone can visit SuperNova free of charge.

Antwerp has become the most important innovation hub in the region and the ideal location to host ambitious technology events.

As developments come quick and fast, the City of Antwerp, Flanders District of Creativity and Scale-Ups.eu joined forces to once again organise SuperNova, a one-of-a-kind event where visionary solutions, technologies and insights meet. It is an event for entrepreneurs, professionals and innovators to connect and be inspired. But also where residents and visitors get the chance to actively participate and experience tomorrow’s technology.

SuperNova 2020 features 4 inspiring programmes:

- Conference: local and international thought leaders grace the stage to share visions and insights,
- Tech Fair: 100+ world-class local tech companies showcase disruptive products and solutions.
- Investor Pitching: the 50 most promising European tech scale-ups pitch game-changing solutions to global VCs and captains of industry.
- Expedition: 100+ interactive installations are showcased in over 15 locations and pavilions offering a glimpse of what ‘the life of tomorrow’ will bring.

Tickets available in March 2020. Pre-registrations already open via supernovafest.eu
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