Paper ID: 30817
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SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING BLOCKS FOR FUTURE SPACE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (D3)
Space Technology and System Management Practices and Tools (4)

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SCIENCE2BUSINESS® - FIRST RESULTS FROM A STRATEGIC INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTER AND AIRBUS DEFENCE & SPACE – SPACE SYSTEMS

Abstract

Only those companies that can quickly realise new ideas and innovative concepts on the market will be successful in the future. Here, the time to market is critical as competitive factor for companies. They have to quickly respond to technology demands and to prepare for future challenges. The development of new technological skills, the proof of technical concepts and appropriate Intellectual Property (IP) to secure the knowledge are the base for new business, products and services. These shall not only be subject to internal considerations. The involvement of the outside perspective (state-of-the-art) and external expertise (open innovation) shall be integrated into the company perspective. Airbus Defence & Space – Space Systems (Airbus DS SpS) is interested in catching advanced technologies following the trends and state-of-the-art of academic and research center's world. Moreover, the company is interested in continuously learning how to best assess technology and innovation by reflecting on the externally existing know-how and expertise.

This paper addresses the application of the "Science2Business®" method of German Aerospace Center (DLR) in a close strategic innovation partnership of Airbus DS SpS as industrial partner and DLR as research partner. DLR developed this method of a strategic innovation partnership as a new concept for the common realization of innovations. The main objectives of the strategic partnership are to compare the DLR portfolio of technologies and knowhow with Airbus DS SpS products and needs and to finally come to the realization of common DLR-Airbus DS SpS innovation projects (market application). Furthermore, common innovation and idea creation initiatives like expert workshops or conferences/roadshows are envisaged.

The paper presents "Science2Business®" as a method and process to establish a strategic cooperation between both partners. The joining of forces for a common target and the synchronization of research and innovation activities speeds-up innovation processes at both partners. Opportunities shall be identified together focusing on the front end of the innovation process to establish selected joined innovation projects for future business application.

The application of the "Science2Business" method are to be performed in joined innovation projects which correspond to the technologies and business fields of Airbus DS SpS. "Science2Business®" is expected to be an effective and efficient way to transfer inventions to business innovation based on joined goals and complementary competencies. First best practice results will be discussed in the paper.