

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN THE MARITIME SECTOR

The transfer of technology from science to the maritime sector is the aim of a team-up between the Maritime University in the northwestern city of Szczecin and the local Technopark Pomerania.

The two signed an agreement to work together during an international conference called "Technology Transfer in the Maritime Sector: Towards the Future," held in Szczecin Oct. 4-5.



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The partners agreed to jointly support the transfer of technology from science to business and to contribute to the quick imple-

mentation of innovative projects in the maritime sector.

One example of an invention designed to serve the development of the maritime sector is the Navigational Decision Support System (NAVDEC) developed by researchers from the Department of Marine Information Technology at the Maritime University in Szczecin. The research team has been provided with professional legal assistance at Technopark Pomerania.

"The idea is already at the stage of pre-incubation as part of the Pomeranus seed fund operated by the Polish Entrepreneurs Foundation," said Wojciech Czyżewski, director of the Center for Maritime Technology Transfer at the Maritime University in Szczecin. "Our research team is preparing to enter the market commercially." The Polish Entrepreneurs Foundation is a Szczecin-based organization that provides assistance in the establishment and development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The team-up between Technopark Pomerania and the Mari-

time University is expected to result in the joint implementation of projects aiming to support technology transfer from science to business. The agreement is also expected to give students and researchers a better idea of how to do business and promote the idea of technology transfer among businesses operating in Technopark Pomerania and ICT Cluster Western Pomerania.

The cooperation agreement is a follow-up to a previous agreement of July 2012 that provides for internships taken by Maritime University students in companies operating at Technopark Pomerania and ICT Cluster Western Pomerania.

"The Maritime University has great academic potential, and our employees have produced analyses, studies and projects that help optimize the functioning of the maritime sector in an innovative way," said Prof. Krzysztof Chwesiuk, vice-rector for research at the Maritime University. Standout examples of innovations developed in the maritime sector include the Pilot Navigation and Docking System (PNDS) and the Navigational Decision Support System (NAVDEC).

Grzegorz Fiuk, president of Technopark Pomerania, said that collaboration between science and business is essential for Szczecin and the region. He added that Technopark Pomerania supports the development of innovative companies and that new infrastructure will be built at Technopark Pomerania next year that will also serve researchers and students, helping put research results to commercial use and contributing to the establishment of spin-off companies.

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