

New business angels network for Östergötland

A new "business angels" network – Östgötaänglar – was set up in Östergötland during the spring. It consists of around 30 people interested in investing equity and expertise in both new and existing businesses in the region.

– There has been widespread interest, and initial investments will probably be made in both newly formed development companies and more established knowledge companies in a variety of different sectors, says Tomas Hagenfelt, adviser at the Mjärdevi Business Incubator and initiator of the new network.

There is a large pool of interesting development companies in the region, many of them spin-offs from Linköping University. Pronova Science Park in Norrköping and



the incubator at Mjärdevi Science Park are environments where many interesting investment candidates can be found. However, companies looking for capital and development assistance can naturally also be found elsewhere in the region. The members of the network include both private individuals

and key players such as banks, insurers, accountants and lawyers.

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New laboratory for vascular studies



A patient specific model of the aorta with wall shear stress magnitude on the wall and streamlines describing how a particle would be transported at a given point of time.

A new biomechanical laboratory for studies of conditions such as atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) has been opened at Linköping University by Professor Neil B. Ingels from Stanford University. Professor Ingels has also been awarded an honorary doctorate by Linköping.

The laboratory for computational biomechanics will bring together researchers in physiology, medical technology, mechanics and mathematics to work on issues relating to cardiovascular disease, such as modelling the aorta and major blood vessels, artery walls and the effects of heat treatment. The laboratory will have its scientific basis in applied mechanics, but

modelling complex biological systems also requires in-depth expertise in physiology and both basic and applied mathematics.

– There is a long tradition of interdisciplinary collaboration at Linköping University, says Matts Karlsson, Professor of Biomedical Modelling and Simulation, and one of the driving forces behind the new laboratory.

– Linköping has unique potential to build up this type of operation, says Professor Neil B. Ingels, who has worked with researchers in Linköping for many years and has welcomed several post-doctoral students to Stanford.

Source: www.liu.se

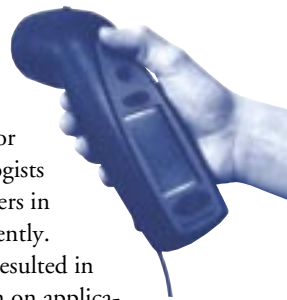
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Huge interest in Ephios in the USA

Ephios AB is a company based at the Mjärdevi Business Incubator which is developing equipment for retinal diagnosis. The retina is part of the brain and central nervous system. By analysing the functions of the retina, some effects on the brain's functions can be demonstrated. Ephios' portable hand-held instrument, which measures activity in the eye in a similar way to ECG measurements of the heart, attracted con-

siderable interest at a major global conference for ophthalmologists and researchers in the USA recently.

This has resulted in collaboration on application testing and development with a university in Canada, ongoing discussions about collaborating with a US instrument company, and a flood of requests for quotations back home in Sweden.



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Microdosing – a future niche for BCRC

Berzelius Clinical Research Center AB in Linköping is strengthening its international competitiveness by investing in microdosing.

The world's pharmaceutical industry is looking for new and safer methods for drug development, and is also very keen to reduce lead times from preclinical research to clinical trials. Small biotech companies also need reliable and cost-effective ways of producing clinical data. Microdosing may play an important role in helping the pharmaceutical industry to develop early-phase drug candidates. The person responsible for this research field is Professor Folke Sjöberg, Director of Medicine at BCRC.

BCRC is continuing to grow rapidly in its specialist areas of early clinical studies (phases 0/I/II). The centre is playing an important part in several drug company research programmes. To date, BCRC has been involved in more than 60 studies spanning a variety of indications. These projects have given Linköping's clinics and researchers increased opportunities to collaborate with the drug companies' research departments.

– BCRC is actively seeking to collaborate with researchers at Linköping University Hospital who work in similar fields that can assist in our development and specialisation, says Stig Blom, CEO of BCRC. It's a clear win/win situation for both the hospital's researchers and BCRC. Collaboration with BCRC helps to fast-track access to research funding and opens up cooperation with international researchers from industry.

In 2005 BCRC accounted for 43% of all applications for drug trials submitted to the Linköping Regional Ethical Review Board.

Since BCRC started up, the number of drug studies in phases I and II has rocketed from 0% to more than 90% of sales in 2005. The company's sales increased to SEK 19 million in 2005 with pre-tax earnings of SEK 1.2 million. The workforce has expanded to 14 people and now includes one physician.

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senaste nytt



New legal expert at Linköping University

Linköping University has recruited legal expert Tobias Fridman, partly to strengthen the university's role when it comes to commercialising its research. Tobias has previously worked as a legal adviser at Delphi & Co and Rambe Legal Consultants.

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New capital for RGB Technologies

Accelerator i Linköping AB, which develops and commercialises research-based innovations (currently in the fields of drug delivery, diagnostics, nanotechnology and material technology) has made an additional investment of SEK 626.388 in RGB Technologies in Linköping. Through this new injection of capital Accelerator has increased its stake in RGB to 24.85%. RGB, a spin-off from Linköping University, is developing a method for the analysis of colour changes, mainly in medical samples, using a webcam and computer monitor. Colorimetric analyses can be performed more easily, reliably and cheaply with RGB's method.

For more information, please see:
www.acceleratorab.se and
www.rgb-technologies.com



Bioelectronics – connecting cells with electronics

World-leading research which unites electronics and biology. That's the aim of a SEK 37 million grant awarded to Professor Magnus Berggren at Linköping University by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research.

The grant is for the creation of a strategic research centre in organic bioelectronics with a node at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm headed by Associate Professor Agneta Richter-Dahlfors.

Research into biology and medicine has made major progress in recent decades, due largely to rapid advances in cellular and molecular biology. The technologies developed there have made it possible to tackle fundamental questions at cell, tissue and organism level. However, a number of important biomedical problems still require the appli-

cation of brand new technology if they are to be solved.

While physics and chemistry were important for the development of the technologies available today, it is advances in organic bioelectronics that are set to have a key impact on biology and medicine in the future. To build an interface between these fields, expertise is needed in both.

The centre for bioelectronics now being created is based on close collaboration between researchers in cellular and molecular biology, neurobiology and stem cell research at Karolinska Institutet and researchers working with organic materials at Linköping University and the research institute Acreo. The goal is to develop materials which mimic the functions of cells and can be integrated with cells and tissues so that the experts can get to grips with key issues.

– The integration of these two fields offers a unique platform for creating organic components which can both translate biological signals into electronic signals and, vice versa, use electronic signals to obtain the desired biological reaction, explains Magnus Berggren. The centre will also offer brand new opportunities to train a new generation of researchers with in-depth expertise in both bioelectronics and, for example, molecular biology.

– In this way we are creating an arena for true multidisciplinary research and an excellent seedbed for new companies as these two research fields now begin to move closer together.

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Investor is new partner in Cambio Healthcare Systems AB

Investor Growth Capital (IGC) has become a shareholder in Linköping-based Cambio Healthcare Systems in a deal which combines a private placing of new shares with the sale of existing shares by the current principal shareholder. Following the transaction IGC will have a stake of around 20%.

– Thanks to its international experience, Investor Growth Capital will be a strong partner in our work of strengthening Cambio's international network of contacts as we continue our expansion abroad, says Tomas Mora Morrison, CEO of Cambio.

Cambio develops IT support for large healthcare organisations, from hospitals to entire health authorities. Its systems, which are currently being introduced in the County of Östergötland and elsewhere, have more than 50.000 users. More than 40.000 of these are in Sweden, making Cambio a major player in the Swedish market for healthcare information systems. Since 2005 Cambio has been focusing on new markets such as the UK, France and Denmark. In August 2005 it opened its first office outside Sweden in London. Cambio has also embarked on the launch of a product concept in China.

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Risk capital for Dynamic Code

Regional venture capital company Rendera SÄDDKAPITAL and a number of private investors are injecting fresh capital into Linköping company Dynamic Code.

Dynamic Code develops and sells products and services in the fields of genetics and bioinformatics, primarily various types of DNA analysis. Clients include hospitals, forensic laboratories, insurance companies and private individuals.

– Demand for various types of complex analysis, not least DNA analyses, is growing all the time, says Mikael Karlsson, CEO of Rendera. Dynamic Code is a new challenger in the field, bringing new ways of thinking to a strictly regulated industry.

– We will be strengthening our sales and marketing organisation during the spring, says Anne Kihlgren, CEO of Dynamic Code. It's extremely gratifying that Rendera wants to be part of our rapid development.

The money will be used primarily to increase sales and marketing work in existing segments: kinship analysis, species identification of animals, and forensic analyses (scene-of-crime investigations).

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Linköping University Hospital among the first with Siemens' new CT scanner

"We're talking truly revolutionary technology here. The new generation of scanner produces 3D images with four times more information than traditional CT scans!"

Anders Persson, director of the Centre for Medical Image Science and Visualisation (CMIV) is enthusiastic about the new CT scanner to be installed at Linköping University Hospital in the autumn. It will be used both in everyday healthcare applications and in the CMIV's leading-edge research work.

– Thanks to the high-profile research advances already made by the CMIV, primarily in the visualisation of the heart, Linköping University Hospital is set to become not only the first hospital in Sweden, but also one of the first research centres in the world to get the new Siemens CT scanner,

says Persson. The scanners in this initial batch of 10 to 12 units are the envy of leading research groups worldwide.

The new scanner has a list price of around SEK 18 million. Östergötland County Council will pay only about half this amount, however, as part of a deal that includes a research contract between the CMIV and Siemens, the company which developed and manufactures the new system under the name Somatom Definition.

The agreement grants Siemens access to the research results from the CMIV's use of this ground-breaking technology. This type of collaboration is nothing new: the county council's purchase of the existing CT scanner (also from Siemens) installed at the CMIV some three and a half years ago was also tied to a research contract, which has just expired.

The new scanner, which will initially be

used primarily in cardiac care and research, is innovative in many ways. The system has two X-ray tubes and is therefore able to produce 3D images, which can be rotated in various ways to yield the maximum amount of information. These tubes also work at different energy levels to enable users to distinguish different types of soft tissue in the body more easily than before. In addition, the images are generated much more quickly, and the dose of radiation required is lower.

Source: www.corren.se

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Sectra sells mammography system to County of Aarhus

The County of Aarhus in Denmark is digitalising its mammography operation and has invested in the Sectra Micro-Dose Mammography system from IT and medical technology company Sectra in Linköping.

It is the company's largest mammography order to date, worth some SEK 15 million. Sectra's mammography system features the lowest dose of radiation of any system on the world market. This low dose, combined with good ergonomics and a carefully engineered workflow, enables mammography nurses and radiologists in the County of Aarhus to work more efficiently and safely without ex-

posing patients to higher doses of radiation than necessary.

– Digital mammography systems have major benefits. I'm convinced that over the next few years many more mammography clinics will follow the example set by Aarhus, says Jens Kring, director of marketing at Sectra A/S in Denmark.

The County of Aarhus has mammography departments at two hospitals, in Aarhus itself and Randers. Together the two facilities perform around 9.000 clinical mammograms a year.

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