WORKING TOGETHER ON INNOVATION

Innovation is the key to staying ahead of (international) competition. Innovation relies on knowledge. At RDM Campus, knowledge institutes and companies are working together in an open environment on sustainable technical innovations in the area of construction, mobility, energy, maintenance, design and architecture. The collaboration is happening in innovation teams that consist of lecturers and students from one or more educational programmes and company employees. So, the businessperson is not just a client but a participant as well. Students carry out the assignments in the client's firm, as much as possible and/or on RDM Campus.

From 2009 to mid 2011, there have been 51 innovation teams on RDM Campus with 388 students contributing specifically to a number of projects for such companies as Ampelmann, Capzo-Salca, TNO, Spijkstaal and RET. One of the most impressive examples is the iconic Floating Pavilion in the Rijn harbour, which illustrates Rotterdam's ambition to build on water. It was built by a consortium including Public Domain Architects, Dura Vermeer and Gemeentewerken Rotterdam (Municipal Works Rotterdam). Students from Albeda College (intermediate vocational education) and Rotterdam University (higher professional education) worked on its design and completion.

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARIJKE VOLKERS

ENTREPRENEUR KEY

The innovation team focuses on the entrepreneur's demands, not the educational programme. They span a wide spectrum; from market research into consumer needs for a specific product to the actual design, development and testing of prototypes.

MULTI-LEVEL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCOPE

Innovation teams can include students from various educational backgrounds (multi-level): intermediate vocational education, higher professional education and academic (in collaboration with TU Delft). In addition, the innovation teams can be multidisciplinary, including students from different educational fields, such as architecture, logistics, product design, mechanical engineering, automotive engineering, commercial economics and ICT. The diverse educational levels and disciplines may be involved concurrently or can be phased into the innovation team.

CURRENT INNOVATION TEAMS

The size and duration of the innovation team projects varies greatly. Some big innovation teams involve a consortium of companies working together for several years, however, new businesses can join in and 'customized' innovation teams can be connected to them. In addition, there are shorter projects targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Some examples:

CONCEPT HOUSE VILLAGE

This experimental and demonstration site for smart and reproducible prototype housing is underway in the village of Heijplaat near RDM Campus. It is a unique research facility focused on innovations in housing construction in an existing urban area, where new techniques, processes and sustainable behaviour are tested above all on levels of comfort and performance. Partners include Woonbron, TU Delft and a consortium of building companies.

AQUA DOCK

While building on water is becoming increasingly attractive, there is usually little opportunity to experiment. Aqua Dock offers the space required to develop, test and demonstrate new techniques, products and prototypes. Partners include a variety of building companies, Gemeentewerken Rotterdam (Municipal Works Rotterdam), the Port of Rotterdam Authority and Stadhavens Rotterdam.

FUTURE MOBILITY

Forward-looking mobility is an important theme for the City of Rotterdam and its harbour. Sustainable accessibility is required in order to diminish the impact of mobility on the environment. Examples are electrical transport by road or water as an alternative for the pollution caused by diesel engines. Partners include Spijkstaal, RET, e-Traction, AVR/Van Gansewinkel, Eneco and Berezina.

TOW WINCH

Paragliding Holland has received 'innovation vouchers' to develop a new winch to tow paragliders into the air. The current tow winch system is outdated, noisy and burdens the environment with harmful exhausts. Automotive engineering students are developing the new system.

PROTOTYPING

Companies and other innovative teams are using the 3D printer and injection moulding equipment in our machine shop so that any design flaws in their projects are detected early on and can be fixed in time.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROY BORGHOUTS

RDM CAMPUS

On the RDM Campus, knowledge institutions and companies are working together in an open environment on sustainable technical innovations in the fields of building, mobility, energy, maintenance, design and architecture. Under the slogan Research, Design & Manufacturing, RDM Campus has everything required to fulfil the needs of companies, such as:

- research and design facilities (Albeda College and Rotterdam University);
- first-rate machinery for prototyping;
- a network of top partners, including TU Delft, TNO, Syntens and the Rabobank;
- start-up facilities via the Dnamo incubator;
- site rentals and office space;
- a conference centre and meeting facilities.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit www.rdmcampus.nl/english or contact RDM Campus:

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RDM CAMPUS IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:

albeda college

HOGESCHOOL ROTTERDAM

Port of Rotterdam

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RDM CAMPUS

INNOVATION TEAMS