



Newsletter December 2012

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News



The Ark, where research and the economy meet

The Ark Foundation deals with a very wide range of technological subjects: IT applications, power points for saving electricity and hydraulic microturbines, to name but a few. The next site to be opened, PhytoArk at Sion-Conthey, also focuses on the advancement of scientific research, this time in connection with issues surrounding Alpine plants. This gives rise to some more unusual projects, including some dealing with... personal hygiene. [\[more...\]](#)

Editorial

From the test tube to the final product

The Ark supports young companies offering innovative products and participates financially in innovative projects by SMEs. But this is not all: it is also interested in research activities, with the fundamental objective of diversifying the cantonal economy into areas with substantial added value.

Through its Accelerator service The Ark has, over almost 10 years, established the tools needed for the detection of promising research works, which it uses to help transform the results of research projects into actual commercial products (see the example). The Foundation depends on successful, diversified research institutes. It has substantial financial resources and a well-developed network enabling it to build bridges between the academic world and industry, all with the aim of developing the canton's economy. [\[more...\]](#)

Services

Accelerator

A closer look at penstocks

As part of an initial project financed by The Ark Foundation's "The Ark Energy" programme, the CSEM, HYDRO Exploitation and Sensima Inspection have developed a high-performance embedded electronics system for the eddy-current inspection of penstocks. The aim was to locate and identify any faults or problems within structural elements. [\[more...\]](#)

Incubator

Welcome to 6 new start-ups!

Six new business projects joined the Incubator during the second half of 2012. These start-up projects cover all areas of The Ark Foundation. CordSavings, a cord blood biobank, has set up at BioArk in Monthey, as has the Genetic Biomarkers project, which specialises in the identification of biomarkers. [\[more...\]](#)

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The Ark Energy



Unanimity in Parliament

After three years of activity the results have been convincing: 24 ambitious projects were given support. No less than four new start-ups have been created and six innovative projects have been successfully concluded by Valais SMEs. [\[more...\]](#)

Innovation

Rethinking software publishing

This autumn, The Ark's Innovation service organised a forum dedicated to the marketplace for business software. More than 60 people, mostly representatives of software publishing SMEs, took part in this conference. In the wake of shops selling mobile phone apps and the phenomenal success they have enjoyed, numerous similar shops have emerged for selling business software. [\[more...\]](#)

Marketing

A wealth of events!

For The Ark Foundation, the end of summer and the autumn are usually synonymous with events. A number of events have been organised by The Ark since the end of June – a forum on marketplaces, a forum on e-health, a national Smart Energy Day, an Innovation Day at BioArk and three Incubator conventions on topics as varied as media communication, accounting and cloud computing. [\[more...\]](#)

Sites



The first enterprises are ready to move in

The construction of the PhytoArk technology site on the ACW campus at Conthey is nearing completion. The building will become operational this winter and the official opening is planned for April 2013. The site will be home to start-up Pharmalp SA, which develops and distributes Alpine plant-based therapeutic solutions for women's health. The company Alchilab SA is setting up an industrial production unit here for the production of plant extracts and bespoke cosmetic products. [\[more...\]](#)



BioKaiZen takes the BioArk Prize

The Ark's traditional Innovation Day was held at BioArk on 13 November 2012, on the subject of peptides. Over a hundred people came to listen to the presentations, which illustrated the importance of this sector of the biotech industry to the canton of Valais. Contributions by speakers from the HES-SO Valais, Lonza, Debio RP and Augurix demonstrated the extremely high potential of the skills in this field to be found here in Valais. Reto Stöcklin of Atheris and Thomas Vorherr of Novartis completed this top-quality panel. [\[more...\]](#)



All change at TechnoArk!

The second half of the year was marked with relocations and new arrivals at TechnoArk. In order to further develop their research activities, the three institutes of the HES-SO-Valais (Business Information Systems, Tourism, Entrepreneurship and Management) expanded and moved into an additional 550 m² of office space. At the same time, the site's reception, The Ark's Incubator, and Business Experience (a training programme in entrepreneurship aimed at students) moved into new offices on the first and second floors of the main building. [\[more...\]](#)



The start-ups on site are doing well

The flagship event of the past six months at the IdeArk site was the first International Create Challenge, ICC'2012. This is a free programme of three weeks' total immersion, the aim of which is to provide young entrepreneurs with a unique opportunity to develop their skills and win money to create a start-up within the areas of activity of the Idiap Research Institute. Following this event, 2 projects are on the verge of signing up to enter into the pre-incubation process. [\[more...\]](#)



Towards the electricity grid of the future

How much storage capacity does the electricity grid need? This question is ever more frequently asked in view of the debate surrounding the energy transition and associated changes to the production mix. The replacement of predictable base-load energy with more randomly-produced renewable energy will require the electricity grids of the future to be more flexible. New challenges, together with business opportunities, arise from the daily balancing of production and consumption, as well as achieving a seasonal equalisation throughout the year. [\[more...\]](#)

Events

Conférence TechnoArk 2013

25 January 2013, 9.00-17.00
Techno-Pôle, Sierre
Vers un internet de l'énergie
[> Inscription](#)

Rencontre Incubateur The Ark

22 February 2013, 12.00-14.00
BioArk, Monthey
Rationaliser ses assurances
[> Inscription](#)

HEVAEX

25 March 2013, 9.00-17.00
CERM, Martigny
Congress Biotech-Medtech
[> Inscription](#)