



The Malta Council for
Science & Technology



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Business-Academia Collaboration in Malta

Ian Gauci Borda
Malta Council for Science and Technology
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Business-Academia Collaboration in Malta



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- About the University
- Office for Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer
- Modes of Collaboration with Businesses:
 - Collaborative and Contract Research;
 - Intellectual Property Valorisation.
- Ongoing European Structural Funds project
- Participation in EU Research Projects such as FP7
- Collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry



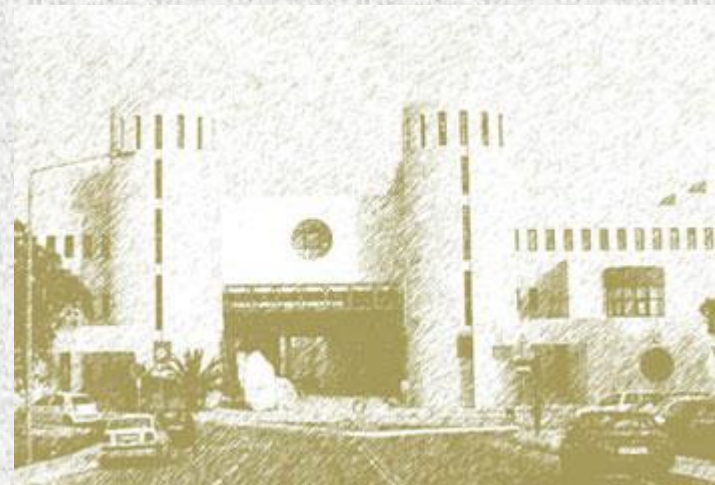
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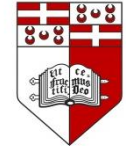
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The University of Malta

- Established in 1592 as the Collegium Melitense
- Msida Campus inaugurated in 1969
- Around 11,000 students
- 1275 academic staff
- 13 Faculties
- Over 20 interdisciplinary or specialised institutes and centres



The Office for Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer



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Office set up at the University in September 2009

- One of its main functions is to assist the University and academic members of staff :
 - To define and protect intellectual property and commercially exploit research results;
 - To participate in externally funded and collaborative research projects;
 - To seek financing for corporate research initiatives.



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Knowledge Transfer Office

The Knowledge Transfer Office supports:

- Collaborative or contracted research with industrial partners
- Valorisation of IP through licensing and start-ups



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Collaborative and Contract Research

The Knowledge Transfer Office:

- Is the main University contact point for industry collaborations;
- Works with academics and companies to promote collaborative research and funding;
- Together with the Legal Office helps negotiate and draft collaboration agreements;
- Supports academics with applications for research grants;
- Collaborations may be in the form of:
 - Internships;
 - Delivery of lectures and practical sessions;
 - Graduate final year projects;
 - Post-graduate research projects;
 - Student and research awards.



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Government body responsible for research policy, promoting scientific research, management of the national research funding programmes and is the national contact point for the EU Research Framework Programme (FP).

National Funding Programmes:

- The **MCST R&I Programme** provides financing in the form of grants for research, development & innovation in science & technology, with a focus on technology transfer between academia & industry.
- The new **MCST Commercialisation Programme** aims at bringing research to market.



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Collaborative Projects with Industry: BLUE OCEAN ENERGY



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- Purpose: adapt DEXAWAVE converter from North sea to Mediterranean conditions.
- Project: Construct and test 1:10 scale model.
- Goal: establish whether full scale project can provide reliable and competitive clean energy.



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Diamond Composites for Thermal Management Applications



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- Purpose: research to improve thermal conduction in electronics components.
- Project: develop a suitable interface between diamond and copper/silver.
- Goal: develop cost-efficient metal-diamond composite materials with high Thermal Conductivity.



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Molecular Characterization and Authentication of Maltese Honey

- Problem: little information is known on the local honey and bee products.
- Project: screen local honey samples for physicochemical constitution and floral origin.
- Goal: authenticate the Maltese honey as a pure honey product of local origin.



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Intellectual Property Valorisation

The role of the Knowledge Transfer Office:

- Drafting of University IP policies;
- Promote identification, exploitation and protection of IP;
- Training and awareness raising;
- Support and advice with matters related to IP and commercialisation issues;
- Management of current patents and filing of new ones.
- Commercialisation of IP through licensing and start-ups

To date:

- 10 patents granted
- 7 patent applications in progress
- 9 invention disclosures that may lead to patent applications



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European Structural Fund Project

- The KTO secured an ESF grant for a project entitled:
“Creating a Knowledge Transfer Framework and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Programme”
- Value: €1,331,530 over 2 years
- Activities:
 - Appraisal, needs analysis and action plan
 - Training of internal and partner staff in IP and KT
 - Training of internal and partner staff in business incubation
 - Two seminar series to raise awareness with UoM and the Maltese ecosystem
 - Setting up of an intensive programme in Technology Entrepreneurship



Participation in EU and other External Research Projects



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- The Project Support Unit:
 - set up in 2007 with the aim to provide assistance on technical, legal and financial matters for academics wishing to participate in externally funded projects;
 - includes representatives from the Finance Office, the International Office, the Legal Office and the KTO;
 - supports academics throughout the whole process including the application stage and post-project
- Through PSU support the University currently participates as coordinator and partner in about 100 externally funded projects under various Programmes including FP5/6/7, Lifelong Learning Programme, and various other international and regional programmes and initiatives.

Collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry



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- ICT:
 - setting up of a joint sub-committee to the Faculty Board with the Chamber's ICT Business Section and MITA;
- Pharmacy:
 - Dr. Claude Farrugia Deputy Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Business Section;
- Engineering:
 - Currently working on a list of services that the University offers to Manufacturing Companies in Malta
- Food Industry:
 - Department of Food Science and Environmental Health
- Research, Technology, Development and Innovation (RTDI) Committee:
 - Dr John Abela, Prof Ing Jonathan Borg, Prof. Joseph Cilia

Challenges



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- Lack of intensive research investments to create the critical mass
- Lack of secure long-term committment from the private sector
- Small scale research