

The Innovation Centre

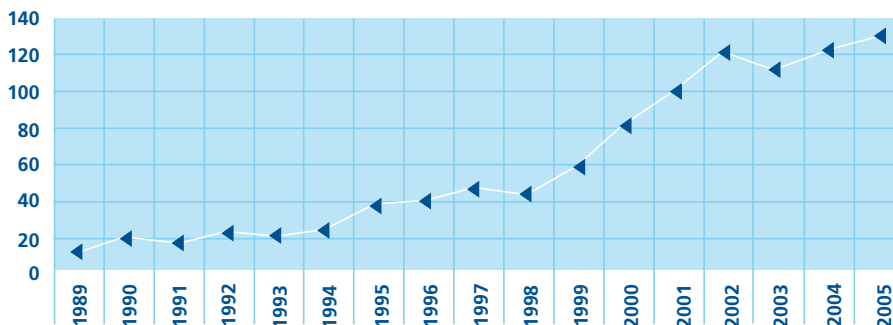
The aim of the Innovation Centre is to provide companies with a rapid means of achieving profitability. Our range of services can be utilised by companies and projects both within and outside the Centre.

The Innovation Centre has grown steadily both in terms of the total number of companies and the range of services we offer. Since 1989 the total number of companies has increased from 12 to over 120 today. The range of services available has also expanded significantly. Our aim at the Innovation Centre is to be able to meet our customers' key requirements, and to facilitate easy access to other quality service providers for specialised needs. The Innovation Centre has been evaluated by the European BIC Network (EBN) for several years and, in the spring of 2006, was formally approved as an EU-incubator.

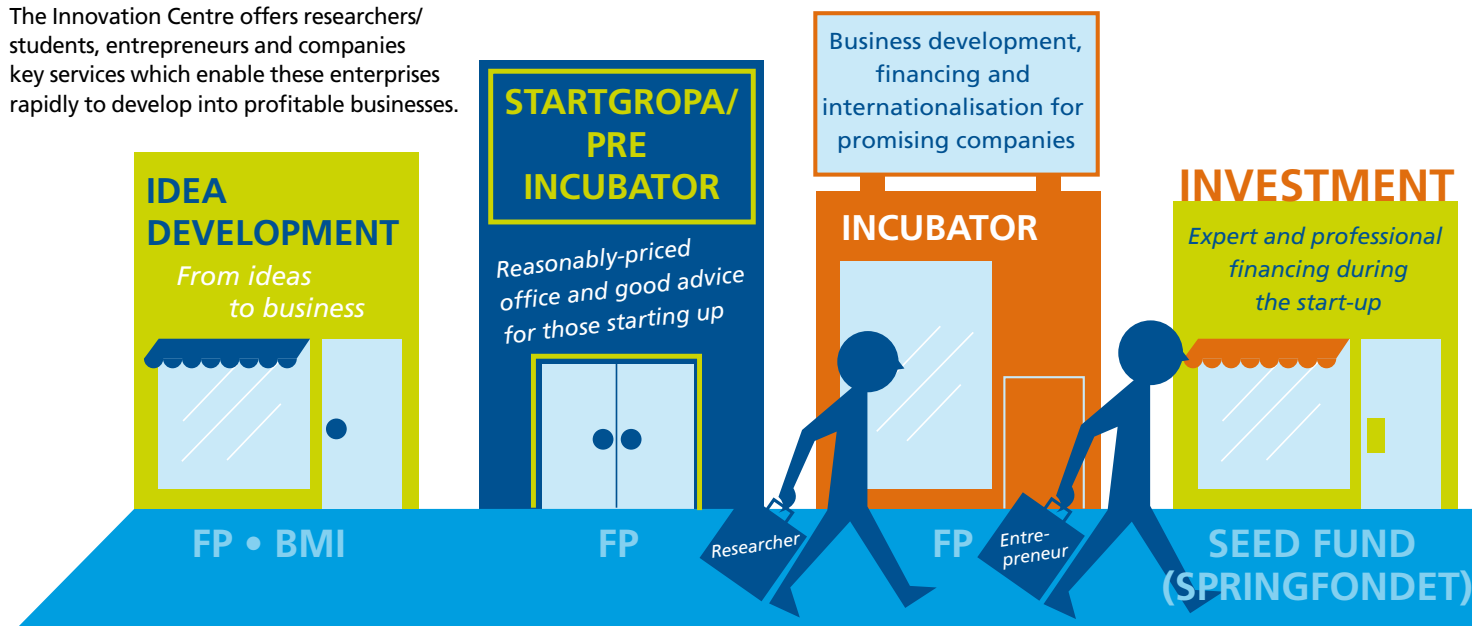
Some of our services are provided by the Innovation Centre itself, while others are provided by companies which we own jointly with others, or by independent entities that operate on our premises. Services provided by the Innovation Centre include both those based on hourly-rate payment, and services/investments for which payment is made in the form of shares. Today, our portfolio comprises 50 or more companies, together with some licensing agreements. During the year, the Innovation Centre, together with Kistefos AS, established the Seed Fund (Springfondet), and we have increased our ownership interest in VentureLab in order to develop this company into a leader in the acquisition of capital for knowledge-based enterprises in their early stages of development. We have previously contributed to the establishment of the company Biomedisinsk Innovasjon, as a tool to promote project development in the field of biotechnology.

Our companies

Since 1989, the total number of companies involved at the Oslo Innovation Centre has increased from 12 enterprises employing just 20 people, to 120 companies in 2005. Approximately 55% of the companies have arisen from entrepreneurs from the business community, 25% from researchers establishing their own businesses, and 20% representing the further development of public sector research projects.



The Innovation Centre offers researchers/students, entrepreneurs and companies key services which enable these enterprises rapidly to develop into profitable businesses.



The story of enCap

For many years, Petter Taugbøl held technical positions at Ericsson working with mobile telephony applications and services. He subsequently moved to the DnB bank where he worked with security systems. It was while he was with the bank that the idea of using a mobile phone to replace code calculators and code cards was conceived and formed, and from where he applied for a patent. The opportunity had arisen to make something of this – and Petter Taugbøl was offered a salaried period during which to develop his own project. DnB were positive to the idea that patents could be taken out and form the basis for a new enterprise. Petter arrived at the Oslo Innovation Centre in the spring of 2005 and leased office space as part of the "Startgropa"/Pre Incubator programme. Innovation Norway contributed with a start-up grant. As the year progressed, the plans took shape. Agreements with DnB gradually fell into place and Petter Taugbøl established contact with his first customers. Gradually, and as the potential of the idea became apparent, the company enCap AS was formed and Petter moved from the "Startgropa" to the Incubator. Here, Innovation Norway continued to provide support for the company in the form of an incubator grant, and the Innovation Centre invested a further NOK 300,000. Later, the company EDB asa joined the project. They implemented the product as part of their own operations when several banks indicated that they were interested in the product. Petter himself brought with him an extensive global network of technical and industry contacts and, in terms of staffing, the Innovation Centre assumed the role of providing administrative personnel. In the spring of 2006 operations continued to expand, creating the need for more staff and funds. The Seed Fund (Springfondet) invested NOK 1 million and, together with other investors identified by Venture Lab, among others, a further NOK 2 million was obtained. Currently, the pilot product has been completed at EDB and will soon be made available to the customers of two Norwegian banks. Future work will involve the market launch and the development of new products. The Innovation Centre now assists the company in preparing applications to Innovation Norway for funds to finance a larger collaboration project with EDB.

