STATE OF PLAY

**PART 3**

GOOD PRACTICE FACT SHEET

**“REGION LEUVEN”**



Date: January 2013

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# Good practice(s) selected

## 1. SYNTHESIS

* H4G Thematic Area:

1) Regulatory Framework and Business Infrastructure,

2) Finance

3) Human Capital

* General Description:  
  DSP Valley is a cluster of excellence in smart systems, including the domain of Smart Health. It started focusing on this domain in 2011 by the creation of its Special Interest Group on Medical Devices. This was inspired by the demands from its existing members (already active in the field) and by the overall societal health and wellbeing challenge. Philips, Medtronic, NXP, Cochlear, Maastricht Instruments, Verhaert, Televic, Nemo Healthcare, Instrumen and Unitron are examples of current members that are involved in the creation of medical devices, from components such as sensors or wireless technology, to complete consumer devices and professional equipment for the healthcare markets. The SIG Medical Devices brings together these members to further explore opportunities in this active research domain and promising market. As there are many local and international organisations involved in different aspects of healthcare (Flanders Bio, Flanders Smart Hub, Agoria e-Health, Fgov e-Health, iMinds Healthy Society, Voka Health Community, Flanders Care, FHI Medische Technologie, AKM, Eucomed, MDMA, etc.), DSP Valley stays focused on the pure “medical device” side: appliances and machines for consumer and professional medical applications, along with the electronic components needed to build them (sensors, wireless connectivity, cameras, etc.), and the dedicated software running on them. As to the latter, this concerns software in (components of) personal healthcare devices, as well as software in professional devices. The focus is not on backend e-health or storage systems for managing healthcare-related data and processes.  
  Beside links to the organizations mentioned above, the SIG also operates in a broader European context with related initiatives in the ELA-triangle, the Meuse-Rhine-triangle for life sciences (through the TTC project), the Medical Electronics SIG of the ETN, etc. to ensure a maximal reach for the DSP Valley members.
* What is the tool/project/programme/strategy/policy/policy action about/what does it seek to achieve? (Please underline)

To tackle the major societal issue of health and wellbeing, it is clear that it should be addressed with all possible means, from local initiatives (Leuven, Flemish-Brabant, Flanders) to the European and global level. DSP Valley wants to contribute to this goal, staying within its focus of embedded devices and smart systems in general.

* What results have been achieved?

So far, we have been able to attract players from the whole value chain of medical device development (from chip manufacturers up to professional and individual end users) to come together and co-operate on the best solutions from all points of view: technology, marketability, usability, safety&security, conformance, etc.

* Why is this good practice/case study?

The reason why this initiative on Medical Devices and Smart Health is successful is because it combines top-down (the societal challenge of health and wellbeing) and bottom-up (the needs from industry) aspects, along with a strong focus within the broad domain of healthcare and medical technology.

## 2. BASICS OF THE OPERATION:

* Title: DSP Valley – SIG MEDICAL DEVICES
* Region: Leuven
* Geographical coverage: DSP Valley operates from its headquarters in Leuven in the first place, where it works with a strong group of research and industry players active in the medical domain (imec, KU Leuven, NXP, Ansem, ICSense, Easics, Target, Instrumen, Comate, and others). This group is further extended with companies and research institutions all over Flanders, active in the field (Cochlear, Televic, Verhaert, OnSemi, Ghent University and others). Internationally, DSP Valley also covers the Netherlands, from its office in Eindhoven. Members in the medical field here are Holst Centre, TU Eindhoven, Philips, Medtronic, Maastricht Instruments, Nemo Healthcare and Unitron. Through its partner organisations in Germany (AGIT, Regina) it is also reaching out to companies and institutions (like RWTH, or AKM) in that region, so that the Eindhoven-Leuven-Aachen triangle is complete. Although the first goal is to reinforce the local ecosystem of organisations in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, it is clear that medical device development is a global phenomenon, and we need to reach out to other European countries and other continents to make sure international co-operation and commercialization encompasses the whole globe.
* Starting date and duration: 27th October 2011 - structural
* Funding (budget and partners)

EU: The domain of Smart Health is covered in the TTC Interreg 4A project in which DSP Valley participates  
National public: Agentschap Ondernemen (Flanders) funds the project "GENEESS" (Healthier through Nano-Electronics and Smart Specialisation) that will focus on stimulating Medical Technology development in Flanders. Flanders Investment and Trade supports our international activities (missions and events abroad related to medical technology).

National private: DSP Valley receives membership contributions from its members; this forms the private funding that is usually leveraged for the local and European public funding.

national private:   
total:

## 3. THEME:

## 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

* Rationale and context of the operation  
    
  In the context of factors such as an ageing population, the advances in biotechnology, and the ever-increasing demand for healthcare solutions, the interest in consumer and professional medical devices is also on the rise. At the same time, many companies offer solutions or parts of solutions that are used or can be used in the development of medical technology, so there is a clear interest in further penetration of the healthcare market

## 5. OBJECTIVES:

## 6. MAIN ACTIVITIES:

DSP Valley organises local and international matchmaking and brokerage events in the broad domain of smart systems. Through its Special Interest Group Medical Devices (or Smart Health) it does so within a specific focus area. Next to the events, DSP Valley also helps develop roadmaps and business cases in the medical field (for implants, diagnostic devices and measuring devices), to the benefit of the broader community active in medical technology. Together with its project partners (imec in particular), it also provides basic advice to companies who want to enter this market (related to compliance, technical choices, market choices, etc.).

## 7. FIT WITH H4G OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

It is clear that an initiative within the healthcare domain like the Special Interest Group Medical Devices fits with H4G. It can show the way for similar initiatives in other regions, offering best practices and ideas to accelerate a strong overall European involvement in the field of medical technology.

## 8. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

## 9. RESULTS AND (LIKELY) IMPACT:

*(i.e. Good Practice(s [GP] results in enhancing local, regional and interregional partnerships: Evidence could include demonstration that the project was inspired by another region’s project/programme or shared with another region. Impact indicators used to asses the GP in general and in particular coherent with H4G project objectives).*

## 10. KEY INNOVATIVE FEATURES

## 11. SUSTAINABILITY

*(Expected sustainability of the project: Evidence could include development towards self-financing or demonstration that the GP has or will be part of a succession of projects sequentially funded by other EU financial instruments)*

## 12. TRANSFERABLE ASPECTS

* transferability of planning (forming a partnership, choosing priorities, etc.)
* transferability of process (management structure, monitoring system, etc.)
* transferability of measures (different aspects – from management to finance)
* transferability of tools (usability, likely impacts etc.)

## 13. ACTORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN DESIGNING GP/CS AND LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT DURING PLANNING STAGE

* local authority
* regional authority
* regional/innovation agency
* education (University) or research institution
* business support structures (incubator, technology park, science park, clusters, networks, etc.)
* business sector

## 14. ACTORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN IMPLEMENTING THE GP/CS AND LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT DURING IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

* local authority
* regional authority
* regional / innovation agency
* education (University) or research institution
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## 15. MAIN SUCCESS FACTORS OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

## 16. EVALUATION REPORTS, AVAILABLE

## 17. OTHER DOCUMENTS

The following diagram shows an example of how DSP Valley members have co-operated in helping a Belgian member in the Medical Devices domain design its hearing implants.



## 18. CONTACT DETAILS:

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